



Ken Patera "DON'T COMPARE TONY
Blasts: ATLAS TO ME!"

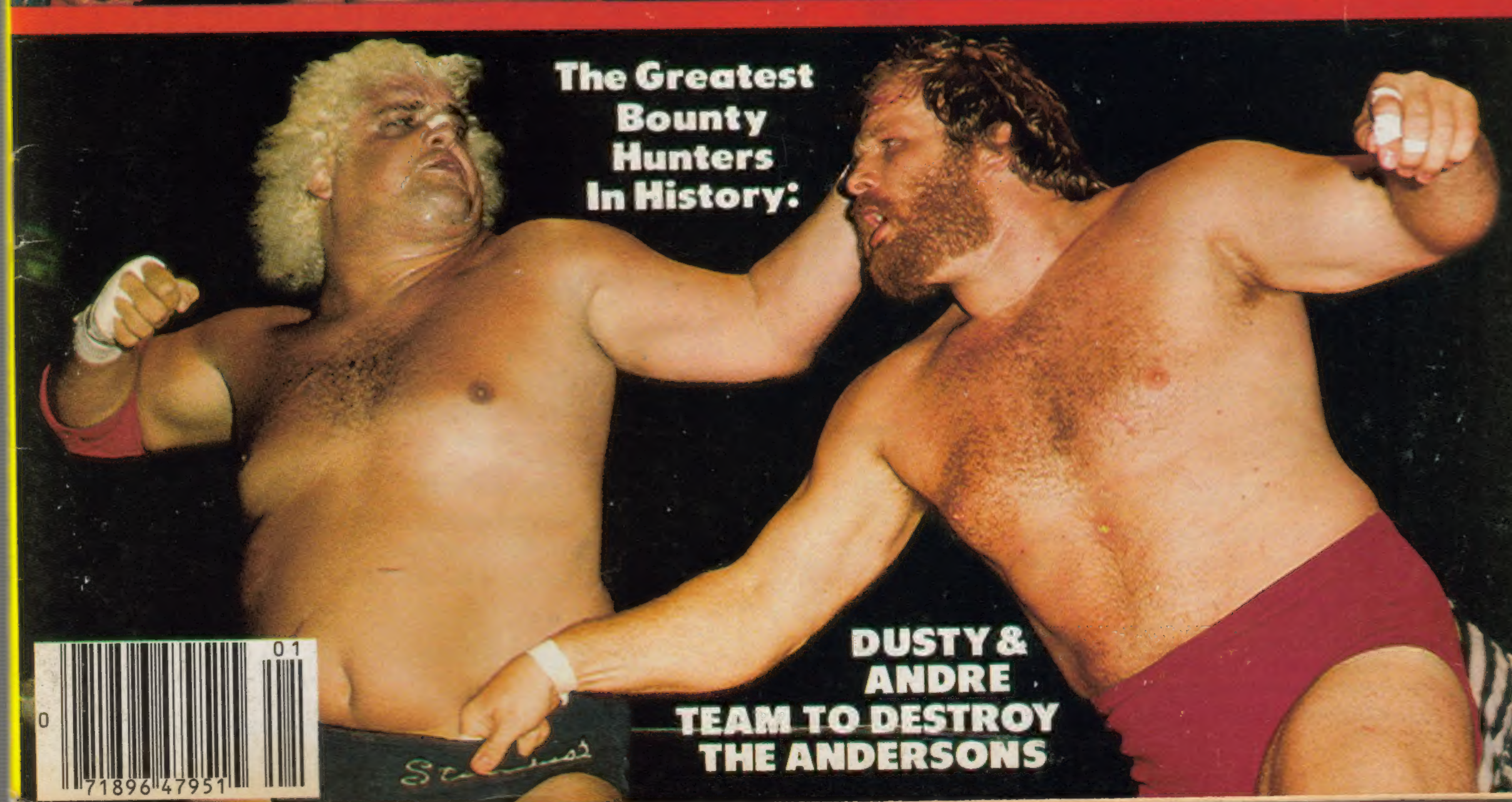
January 1981

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THE Wrestler



***Valentine vs. Flair:
THEIR BLOOD IS GOOD
FOR WRESTLING***



**The Greatest
Bounty
Hunters
In History:**

**DUSTY &
ANDRE
TEAM TO DESTROY
THE ANDERSONS**



OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Champion: BOB BACKLUND

- 1—SGT. SLAUGHTER
- 2—HULK HOGAN
- 3—LARRY ZBYSZKO
- 4—PEDRO MORALES
- 5—THE HANGMAN
- 6—TONY ATLAS
- 7—PAT PATTERSON
- 8—TONY GAREA
- 9—RICK MARTEL
- 10—RICK MCGRAW

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Champion: VERNE GAGNE

- 1—NICK BOCKWINKEL
- 2—CRUSHER
- 3—CRUSHER BLACKWELL
- 4—MAD DOG VACHON
- 5—DINO BRAVO
- 6—JESSE VENTURA
- 7—GREG GAGNE
- 8—TITO SANTANA
- 9—JOHN STUDD
- 10—ADRIAN ADONIS

MOST POPULAR

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 2—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
- 4—RIC FLAIR
- 5—BOB BACKLUND
- 6—MR. WRESTLING II
- 7—IVAN PUTSKI
- 8—MIL MASCARAS
- 9—RICK STEAMBOAT
- 10—TED DIBIASE



LARRY ZBYSZKO



JOHN STUDD



HUSSEIN ARAB



RICK STEAMBOAT

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Champion: HARLEY RACE

- 1—GREG VALENTINE
- 2—DICK SLATER
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
- 4—DENNIS CONDRI
- 5—BABA THE GIANT
- 6—HUSSEIN ARAB
- 7—KEN PATERA
- 8—TED DIBIASE
- 9—JOHN TOLOS
- 10—GINO HERNANDEZ

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE SAMOANS
- 2—RAY STEVENS & JIMMY SNUKA
- 3—JESSE VENTURA & ADRIAN ADONIS
- 4—MR. WRESTLING I & II
- 5—JERRY BRISCO & DICK MURDOCH
- 6—TERRY GORDY & BUDDY ROBERTS
- 7—THE ASSASSINS
- 8—KERRY VON ERICH & EL HALCON
- 9—RICK STEAMBOAT & JAY YOUNGBLOOD
- 10—BULLDOG BROWER & STAN STASIAK

MOST HATED

- 1—LARRY ZBYSZKO
- 2—KEN PATERA
- 3—ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
- 4—MARK LEWIN
- 5—HULK HOGAN
- 6—NICK BOCKWINKEL
- 7—HARLEY RACE
- 8—GREG VALENTINE
- 9—KILLER BROOKS
- 10—BUDDY ROBERTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

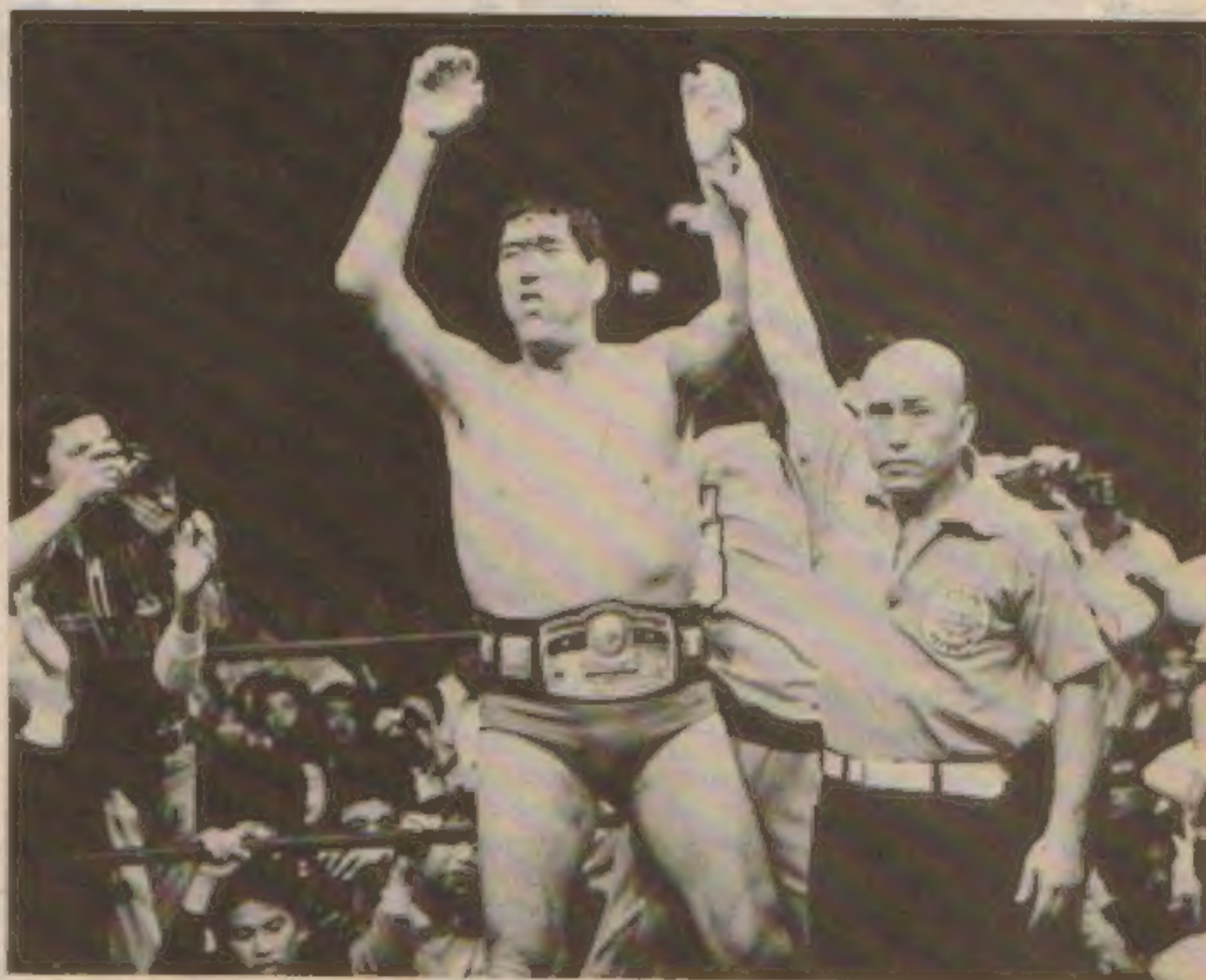
BY BILL APTER

HARLEY RACE LOST the NWA championship again! On September 4, in Tokyo, Japan, Shohei Baba used a combination of neckbreakers, suplexes, and dropkicks to take the title in 14:05. Showing the colors of a real champion, however, Race bounced back just six days later and soundly defeated Baba to regain the belt.

By the way, this makes Baba a three-time NWA champion (defeating Jack Brisco once and Race twice). Race now goes into the record books as a *five-time* NWA king!

The tag team tournament to determine the new WWF tag team champions is over. Afa and Sika, the Samoans, have won the belts they originally lost to Bob Backlund and Pedro Morales. "It was a cinch," boasted the Samoans' manager Captain Louis Albano. "The last two teams left were my Samoans and Tony Garea and Rene Goulet. I had no doubt my men would annihilate those prelim bums, bury them, and walk away true champions again! The Captain is a genius. The Samoans couldn't have done it without my guiding light!"

Texas has a new tag team that is



Fans in Tokyo mob ringside to honor the new NWA champion, Giant Baba, who won the title for the third time. Six days later Harley became a five-time champion.

creating terror all over the state. Stan Stasiak and Bulldog Brower have pooled their resources and are steamrolling over all opposition. "Maniac" Mark Lewin has returned to the Lone Star State and is locked in a bitter feud with former manager Gary Hart and Hart's protege, "Gorgeous" Gino Hernandez . . . Ted DiBiase, the

North American champion, is negotiating with Georgia promoters . . . Rookie star Terry Taylor has been inked for a Madison Square Garden wrestling show.

The Masked Superstar a fan favorite? Yup, it's true, at least in the Mid-Atlantic region. Superstar

(Continued on page 52)

CORRESPONDENTS Reports

RICHMOND, VA—*Correspondent: Charlie Abourjilie*—On this night, Rick Steamboat got the match he'd been waiting for against NWA champion Harley Race. And Steamboat was ready. He countered each move Race applied and reversed every maneuver. After about 15 minutes of tough battling, Race took Steamboat out of the ring. Race attempted a piledriver but Steamboat flipped the champ over

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to : Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

partner for his "pound of flesh" from arch-rivals Buddy Rose and Smiling Ed Wiskowski. Piper and Boyd won the first fall in record time, while Rose and Riskowski recovered to capture the second fall. In the decisive final fall, Boyd



Roddy Piper (above) and Lord Jonathan Boyd's vicious brawl with Buddy Rose and Ed Wiskowski ended in a double disqualification.



Rick Steamboat dominated Harley Race outside the ring (above) and within (right), but failed to capture the NWA title.

his back. By now the count was six and, as Rick tried to get back into the ring, Race made a last attempt, seized Steamboat's leg and held him out for the count of 10. Both men were counted out.

In other matches, Ric Flair and Blackjack Mulligan destroyed Greg Valentine and Bobby Duncum . . . George Wells and



S.D. Jones defeated Frankie Lane and Tenyru . . . Don Kernodle and Ron Ritchie drew with Swede Hanson and David Patterson.

TACOMA, WA—Correspondent: Ken Hamblin—Revenge was the motivating force behind the main event as Rowdy Roddy Piper chose Lord Jonathan Boyd as his

and Rose battled outside the ring while Piper and Wiskowski slugged away within the squared circle. The referee had no choice but to declare the contest a double disqualification.

In other bouts, Sandy Barr bested Fidel Cortez . . . Joe Victory Lightfoot upended Rocky

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YOU ASKED US

Here's the monthly feature which YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR question! Only the best questions will be answered—so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to: **YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER, PO BOX 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.** Questions will be answered only in this column and at our discretion!

Q: "Could you ask Lou Albano who he thinks would win a match between The Samoans and Professor Tanaka and Mr. Fuji?"—Cris Justin, Ship Bottom, NJ

A: "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind, none at all, not even a piece of shrapnel, did I ever talk about my war days? Another time," replied Albano. "My boys would wipe the mat with those bums."

No one can match Samoan know-how and Albano genius. Our combination of cunning, strength, and brilliance remains unsurpassed in all the world. Ask yourself this question, you young ignoramus: is there any in the world finer than Captain Lou Albano? No. Would Captain Lou Albano manage losers? No. So how could a tag team *not* managed



The Samoans, who recently regained the WWF tag team title, would easily defeat Prof. Tanaka and Mr. Fuji, according to manager Lou Albano.

by Captain Lou Albano possibly defeat one managed by Lou Albano. I hope this answers your idiotic question."

Q: "When did Dusty Rhodes win his first title?"—Jim Buie, Satellite Beach, FL

A: Dusty Rhodes won his first



Dusty Rhodes and Dick Murdoch (above in a recent photo) won their first tag team title as The Outlaws in 1969.

title while a member of The Outlaws with partner Dick Murdoch.

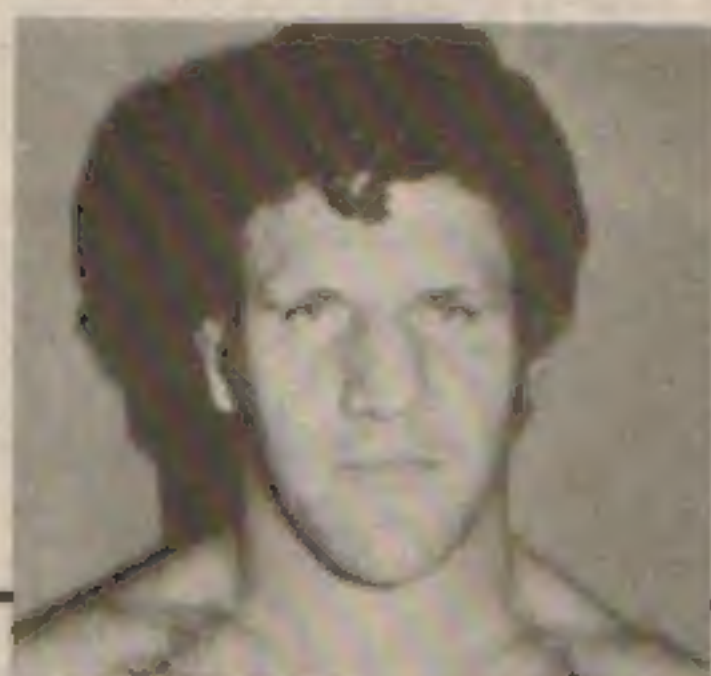
Q: "I read somewhere that Ernie Ladd may team up with Mr. Wrestling II. Could this possibly be true and, could you please ask both of them to get a full side of the picture?"—Richard Gregston, New Orleans, LA

A: Ernie Ladd was the first to respond. "H? I'd have to give it a great deal of thought."

(Continued on page 50)

Every issue, this magazine praises the noteworthy and damns those who violate the spirit of wrestling's dignity. The praiseworthy are given a "thumbs up," the disgraceful are marked with "thumbs down." Here is this month's roll of honor and shame

Thumbs Up



THUMBS UP to Bruno Sammartino: Finally, the Living Legend placed the time-consuming, emotionally debilitating feud with Larry Zbyszko behind, where it belongs. Hopefully, Sammartino's enormous talents and energies can now be directed toward something worth while, instead of the systematic destruction of a man of Zbyszko's caliber.

THUMBS DOWN to Greg Valentine: Unfortunately Valentine resists efforts from those who care to change his maniacal ways. Many Mid-Atlantic wrestling persons offered Valentine unlimited financial support if he'd follow the rules of scientific wrestling. Thus far, Valentine has flatly refused.



THUMBS UP to Kevin Von Erich: As heir to a family legacy, Von Erich has often been a target for envious wrestlers intent on shattering a burgeoning legend. Yet Von Erich maintains his poise and dignity, rarely deviating from clean, scientific wrestling. Von Erich remains a credit to his family and sport.

THUMBS DOWN to Ole Anderson: Nothing should come between brothers. Surely, when discussing brotherly love, such things as winning or losing should be secondary. But Ole violated those sanctified principles. Under no circumstances should he have declared war on his own brother, Lars.



THUMBS UP to Sir Oliver Humperdink: His recent admission of past wrongs is a giant step forward for this once-hated manager. Now, Humperdink claims his strategies will be used by scientific wrestlers like Dusty Rhodes and the Briscos.

(Continued on page 48)

Thumbs Down

Q&A

Each month, **THE WRESTLER** will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost on the fans' minds



There is little chance that Rick Steamboat can completely forget what happened between him and Paul Jones, but for now, they seem to have put aside past differences in a united effort to clean up the Mid-Atlantic area.

Q: Rick, the first question should concern Paul Jones' return to the Mid-Atlantic area after an absence of several months.

A: Well, I'm kinda glad Paul's back. He's a good wrestler if his head is on right.

Q: Do you believe his assertions of change?

A: Well, I'm still kinda in the middle. Paul and I have wrestled together several times and that old spirit in the partnership seems to be back. I've accepted his apology, but you just don't dismiss the memory nor the scars of that betrayal. Someday, I will. But now it still pops up from time to time.

Q: What was your initial reaction when you learned of Jones' return, before the public apology?

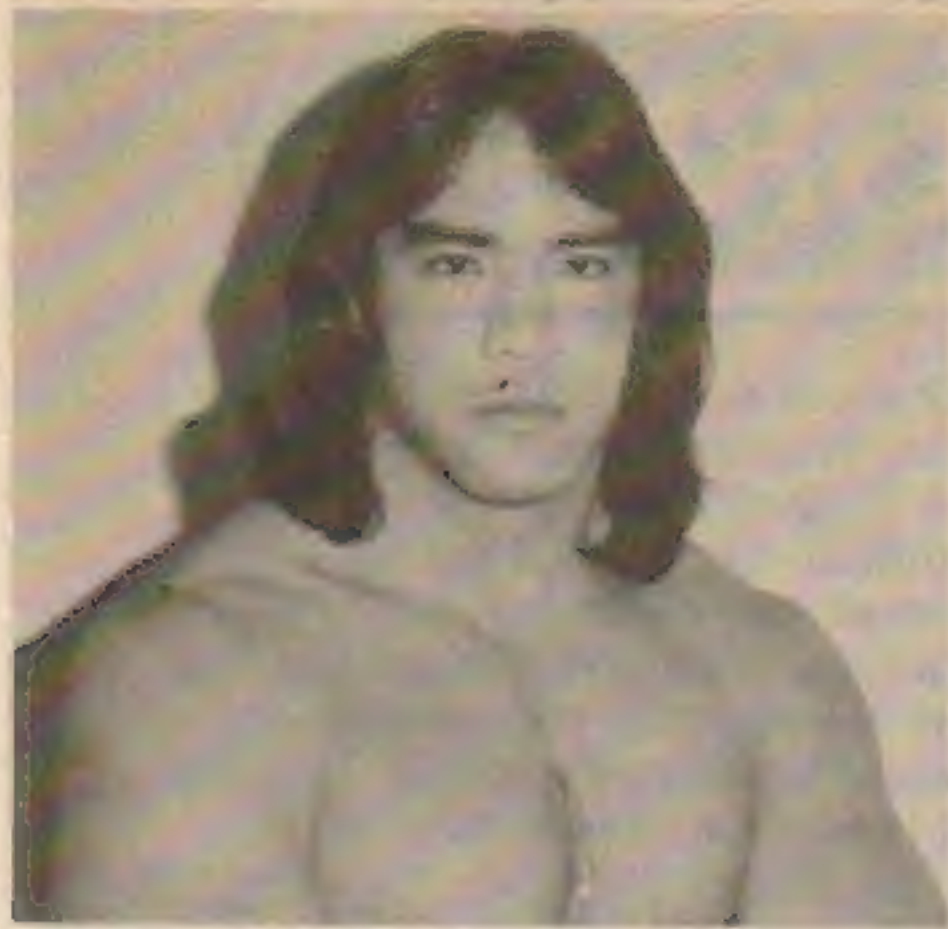
A: I thought good, now I can break his neck. But after I spoke to him and heard his public apology, you know, making an apology like that on television takes a lot of guts. You have to respect someone after that. I do.

Q: Speaking of former enemies turned friends...

A: I seem to collect them. (Laughs)

Q: Why is that?

RICK STEAMBOAT



YOUNG RICK STEAMBOAT already commands a considerable reputation. Fans adore him, peers accord him grudging praise, and enemies place him number one of their hit lists. Though young, Steamboat already has won the United States Heavyweight title, the Mid-Atlantic title, shared the NWA tag team crown with Jay Youngblood, and the Mid-Atlantic tag team championship with Paul Jones. Yet Steamboat paid a price for success. For a long period, he was bedeviled by his explosive temper. And Steamboat's bitter, bloody feuds embroiled him with the likes of Jones, Ric Flair, and Ernie Ladd. Whenever names are tossed around for the next dominating personality in professional wrestling, Rick Steamboat is prominently mentioned.



Rick clamps a headlock on NWA king Harley Race.

A: Maybe because I understand what it's like to be intense and fiery. I've got a little temper myself (chuckles) and I can see the thin line separating some-

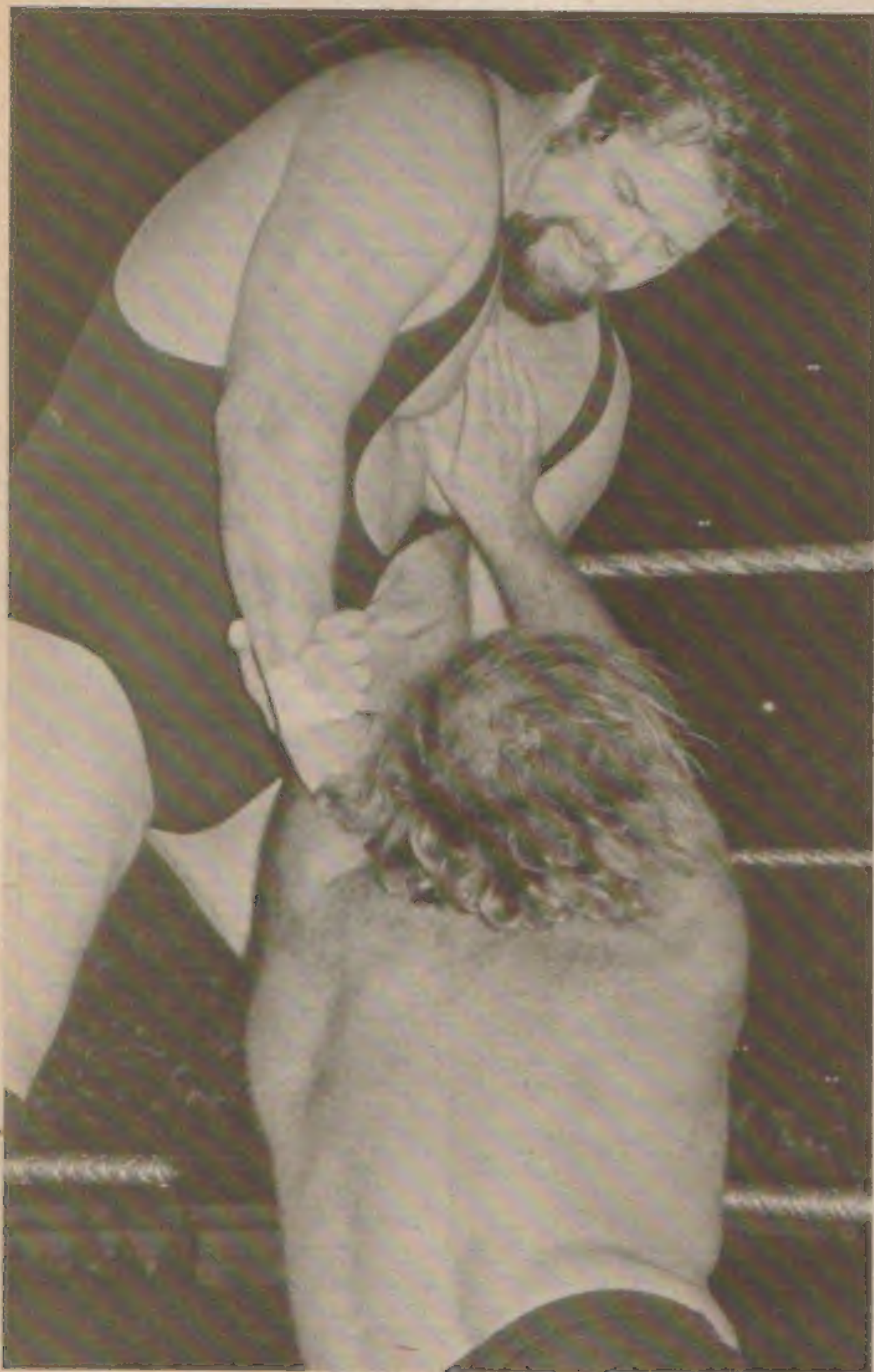
what controllable rage from complete chaos. So I might be a little more forgiving than those wrestlers who never lose their temper.

Q: Ric Flair's a good example, isn't he?

A: Yeah, see Ric and I had some doozies back then. I swear, I wanted to break

(Continued on page 64)

INTRODUCING



The Hangman digs his fingers into the neck muscles of the popular Rene Goulet. Although convinced he is doing good for the sport of wrestling, the Hangman has done nothing but cause trouble. His manager, Fred Blassie, feels he will rise to a championship.

THE NEXT TIME the Hangman wrestles, look around the arena. Somewhere in the stands you'll find a little old lady. She won't look too interested in what's going on for most of the evening. In fact, you can probably recognize her by her knitting needles, a roll of yarn, and a half-completed sweater on her lap. But when the Hangman comes into the ring, watch her perk up.

Mrs. Merganthaler will never miss her favorite wrestler in action. "Nothing like a good hanging, sonny," she said.

The Hangman, the latest find of manager Fred Blassie, is aware of Mrs. Merganthaler's presence. "Sure, I look for her everytime I get into the ring," he said with a thick French accent. "Next to my manager, Madame Merganthaler is the most important person in the world to me."

Puzzling. "Why should it be puzzling?" Fred Blassie asked. "It's rather simple for anyone of any intelligence to understand. Of course, as usual, I'll explain it in simple, pencil-neck terms.

"The Hangman has always been a great fan of American Western movies. But unlike most geeks who root for the cowboy with the white horse and shining badge, The Hangman watches the movies for another reason entirely. He loves the part where the villain get tried and convicted to death by hanging. He loves to see the hangman perform his task. He studies the

THE HANGMAN

hangman and sees a look of pleasure in his eyes. He will enjoy his work because he knows he is doing some good for society.

"When the Hangman sees that sweet Mrs. Mergenthaler with her knitting needles screaming 'hang 'em high, Hangman,' it makes my man feel like he is back in the Old West, and he's inspired to do well because he knows he is doing good for the sport of wrestling."

That claim could be highly

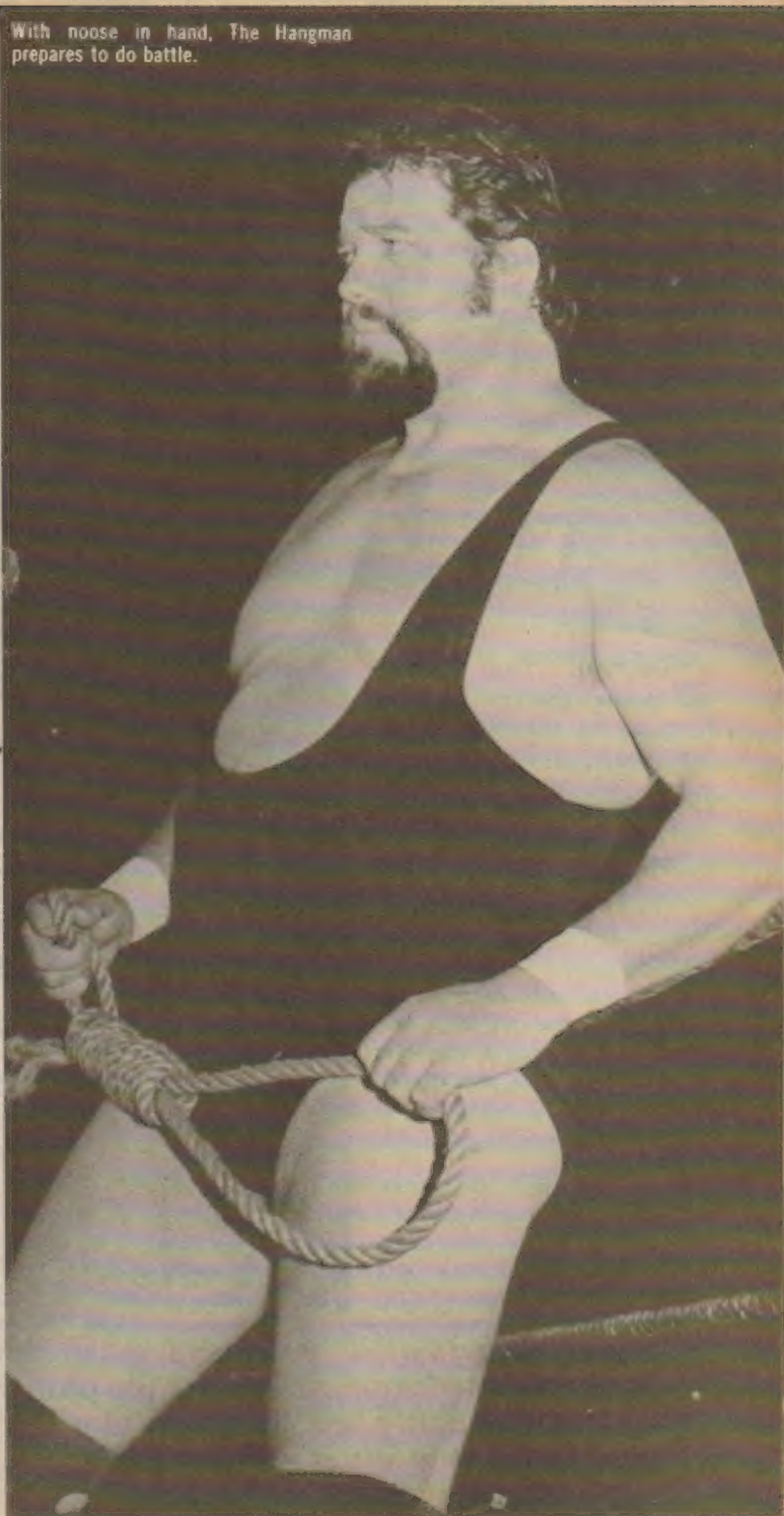
**What is the
frightening mystery
behind The Hangman.
Where does he come
from, what is his past,
his future? Who are
his friends? Why does
he insist on being
called "The Hangman?"
We try to unravel
the mystery**

disputed. Since emerging in the WWF, the Hangman has annihilated opponent after opponent with his unique brand of viciousness. But the people he's devoted his energies to are the cowboys with the white horses and shining badges. Just what good he is doing for wrestling is, at best, questionable. Unlike the hangmen of the Old West, he and Blassie are unconcerned with the proliferation of outlaws in the sport.

The Hangman's goal is simple. He wants to capture Bob Backlund's WWF title. "Anybody who wants to challenge for control in this here territory," said Blassie as if he were auditioning for a part on *Gunsmoke*, "will have to beat the Hangman in a showdown."

(Continued on page 49)

With noose in hand, The Hangman
prepares to do battle.



PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

STEVE KEIRN'S STRUGGLE TO STAY ALIVE

SURVIVAL. THAT WORD means a great deal to Steve Keirn as he struggles for his wrestling life in Georgia. It was just a few weeks ago when Keirn, then Georgia Heavyweight champion with a stunning victory over Baron Von Raschke, seemed to own the state

"I was on top of the world," declared Keirn.

Keirn seemed destined to move into the number one position as a young scientific wrestler. He had everything: looks, strength, speed, skill, compassion. Surely nothing could stop him.

Then Dennis Condrey happened upon Keirn's dreams. Big, mean, tough, and overwhelmingly brutal, Condrey only wants to win. But so does Keirn.

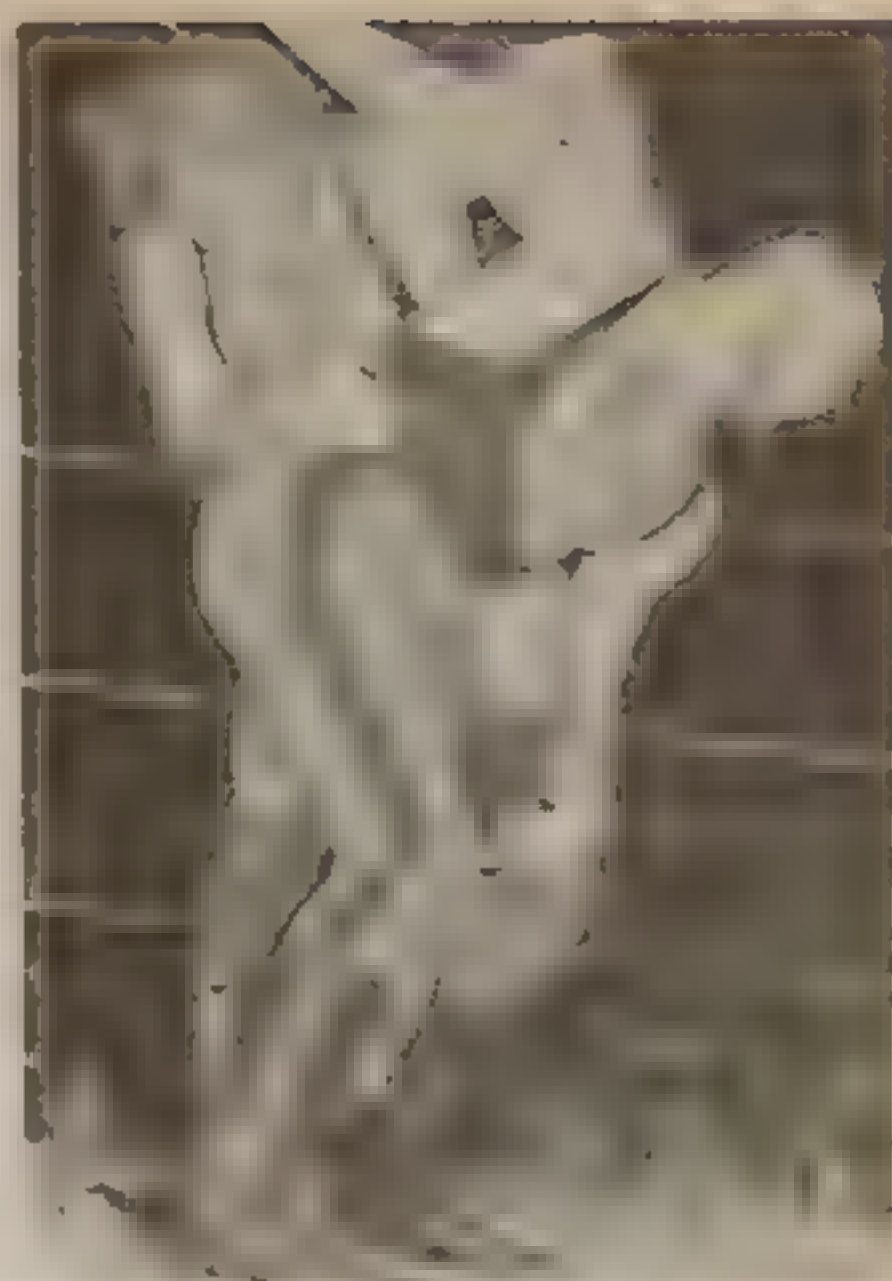


Steve Keirn faces life as a series of struggles. He doesn't look into the future, realizing the painful unpredictability of life. Each day brings a new challenge, a new crisis, a new test of his inner strength. Recently Keirn faced one of the biggest fights of his life. How he fares may decide his entire wrestling career

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



Steve Keirn is struggling to keep his spirits up after losing the Georgia Heavyweight title to Dennis Condrey. Above: Alexis Smirnoff drops on Keirn's chest. Below: Steve tries to apply a sleeperhold.



Smirnoff uses all his strength to hiproll Keirn and escape an abdominal stretch submission hold.

Then why did a man of Keirn's talents lose the belt?

"I don't know," shrugged Keirn.

Keirn does know, but, like many suffering a traumatic experience, he cannot face the bleak reality of his current situation.

"I was very surprised when I heard Steve lost the title," said Mr. Wrestling II, a close friend. "Here's a guy with a world of talent and he just loses to someone I feel is much less talented."

"You see that sort of thing all the time. A guy has a bad night and his opponent, much inferior, is on top of his game and poof, there goes the match."

"What worries me is how Steve'll react to this crushing loss. I really hope you can come back. This'll be the real test of his guts, more than anything that'd ever happen in the ring," continued II, his mask twisting in a concerned form.

Other wrestling friends echo II's concerns.

"I've always felt Keirn had as much raw, natural talent as anyone in wrestling," declared Mr. Wrestling. "Steve's the sort of guy who should keep on



climbing the ladder of success until he finally wins a major title

"When he stopped Von Raschke, I thought for sure this was the first real big step. Here was Von Raschke, an incredibly cruel creature. You know Von Raschke won't stop at anything to keep his title or win a match. Heck, Von Raschke would poke your eyes out for a bowl of soup.

"So I thought Steve's win would firmly establish him as a major contender for Race's championship. And I thought it

would establish Keirn's own self-image. Now I hear Keirn is worrying a lot. That's the worst thing he could possibly do. You've gotta just accept the defeats and go forward. You can't brood and ponder and worry, or you'll turn yourself into a basket case.

"I'm kinda concerned about Keirn. I just hope he gets over this," concluded Woods

"Few days after Steve lost, me and him went out for a few beers," recalled Dusty Rhodes.

"He was real low, but I think I cheered him up a little by tellin' him how I dealt with losin' the NWA title. He acted like he was feelin' a little better.

"Then some days later I called and he said he didn't feel like goin' out. I had to twist his arm for him to meet me for a cup of coffee. We spent the whole night talkin' and discussin' how he felt. Keirn looked real low, worse than he did earlier. Seemed nothin' I could say could change or lift up his mood. Dunno, I'm real worried about my buddy Keirn."

Again and again, the collective concern flows through Georgia wrestling circles. Is Keirn going to allow one debilitating defeat to end a promising career? Or can Keirn recover and draw upon his ample moral strength and courage to surmount the present problems and begin that long road back to the top?

"Sure, I was beaten down after losing the belt," confessed Keirn. "I felt like nothing, like my whole world had ended in one big lump and I was totally worthless. I didn't know what to do. Thank God for friends, I don't know what I'd do without their kindness

"It's a jolt to hold a title for such a short while. You know, winning the title gives you a completely different perspective of yourself. While it isn't instantaneous, it does happen pretty quickly. All of a sudden you think of yourself as champion and that colors your whole way of looking at things. You think you're better than people, I don't mean that arrogantly, but a champion has to act a certain way.

"Then it's gone. Just like that. You're not the champion and you walk around kinda hollow inside. You have to explain away what happened and justify what happened. And it hurts, believe me, it hurts a lot." □

Ken Patera Blasts: "DON'T COMPARE TONY ATLAS TO ME!"

A simmering controversy erupted recently, ensnaring both Ken Patera and Tony Atlas in a violent dispute. Patera, reigning Inter-Continental and Missouri Heavyweight champion, claims Atlas is a genuine weightlifter. Atlas responds with a heated defense, concluding that the only way to resolve matters is within the squared circle.

W

Ken Patera is the

Inter-Continental Heavyweight Champion

and

Missouri Heavyweight Champion

and is a genuine weightlifter

and is a genuine weightlifter

and is a genuine weightlifter





mention of a comparison with Atlas, the Inter-Continental and Missouri Heavyweight champion flies into an uncontrollable rage.

"Don't compare Tony Atlas to me," screamed Patera, veins bulging on his thick neck. "He tries to make himself into an athlete. That makes me sick. And then Atlas brags how he's a weightlifter. Atlas only has pretty muscles.

Patera paused to gasp ragefully.

"Atlas doesn't know the first thing about weightlifting. Know how he got his kind of muscles? I'll tell you. Atlas got his muscles by doing a lot of repetitive exercises with light weights. All he did was lift a really weightless object, maybe a coffee cup, for about 10 seconds. He doesn't have anything else to do, he isn't the brightest person in the world.

"Atlas only has show muscles, totally useless for anything at all.

They are very similar, yet very different. Ken Patera and Tony Atlas are two of the most muscular wrestlers in the sport. Patera is a former Olympic weightlifter and Atlas is a former Mr. USA. Yet talk to these men, and they will talk only of their differences. In short, they despise each other. Above, Patera chokes Atlas across the top rope.

He can't really lift heavy weights, has no idea of power lifting at all. He has pretty muscles, that's all."

Again, Patera paused to gather his increasing anger.

"Now I'm an Olympic weightlifter. What I did, and still do, takes enormous strength. My huge muscles are accustomed to lifting heavy weights. I've honed my body on exactly that sort of diet of rigorous exercise. All Atlas does is lift objects all day long. And he's got the nerve to call himself a weightlifter?

"Besides, Atlas' has little strength, that's quite evident from his repeated failures in the ring. As soon as he gets locked into any kind of power struggle, he collapses. He can't keep up with me

in strength, or even my grandmother.

"Atlas has a nice body if you like mannequins. I resent any comparisons at all. Atlas has his place, and that's in a dime store window. I have my own place as undisputed master of wrestling."

"How can anyone look at that clod, clumsy fool Atlas and think he can hold a candle to my man Patera?" Wiz patted Patera on the back. "No one can come close to Patera, much less an ugly, stupid, oaf whose only accomplishment in his entire life has been tying his shoes. Once."

Needless to say, Atlas vehemently disputed Patera's contentions.

"How can he say that 'bout me?" he asked. "Any time I wrestled



As if he were a barbell, Atlas presses Patera over his head and tosses him to the canvas.

him. I beat his brains out and sent him slutherin' outta the ring.

"I been real proud of my accomplishments in body-buildin'. I was Mr. USA and you never heard of fat-boy Patera gettin' any mention in that contest, did you? You never hear of Patera gettin' calls from ad agencies askin' him to model, do you?

"Patera's jus' jealous 'cause he can't wrestle. If he ever tried and wrestled fairly, he'd get his brains knocked out. Even with him cheatin' and usin' illegal holds, Patera loses to me. Jus' a matter of time 'fore I mash his face into the canvas and they have to cart him away on a stretcher.

"I don't like big-mouths, but more than that, I don't like big-mouths who don't know what they're talkin' about. Patera don't know the first thing 'bout takin' care of his body. And he runs off at the mouth 'bout how I don't do exercises.

"If he knew anythin', he'd know how hard I work out. But I use a more refined approach to trainin'. All Patera does is lift a few heavy weights and practice his cheatin' and he thinks he's in shape. I go through a rigorous trainin' program designed to make sure my body is polished and fine to a real good point.

"I take lots of vitamins. I do all kinds of exercises, not just one kind. I watch what I eat and I have a positive, healthy outlook on life. Thinkin' good and freein' yourself of ugly thoughts helps your entire health and well-bein'. Patera harbors all thse mean, nasty thoughts and it shows in his body, if you can call that a body.

"I'd like to offer Patera a chance to come on down and watch me work out, anytime. I'm sure he can find the gym, he musta been down there once or twice in his life."

Patera eagerly accepted Atlas' offer

"Yeah. I'll watch him. I have a couple minutes to kill." Patera snickered. □

'THE WRESTLER' REUNITES THE JAGGERS FAMILY

By Bill Apter

THE LETTER WAS addressed to me. I opened the envelope, as I open all my mail first thing in the morning. Usually, it's a letter from a fan asking a question, a report on some match, free-lance photos, requests for advice on breaking into wrestling, a personal letter to be forwarded to some wrestler.

But this one was different. Very different.

Dear Bill Apter:

I wish to express my sincere thanks for your help in locating my son Bobby Jagers. It was through your magazine and individual help that we have again located each other.

It's a small world only when you are not the one looking for someone.

I have no doubt it couldn't have been accomplished without your help.

The letter was signed Bobby Jagers' father, Lewis Jeaudion.

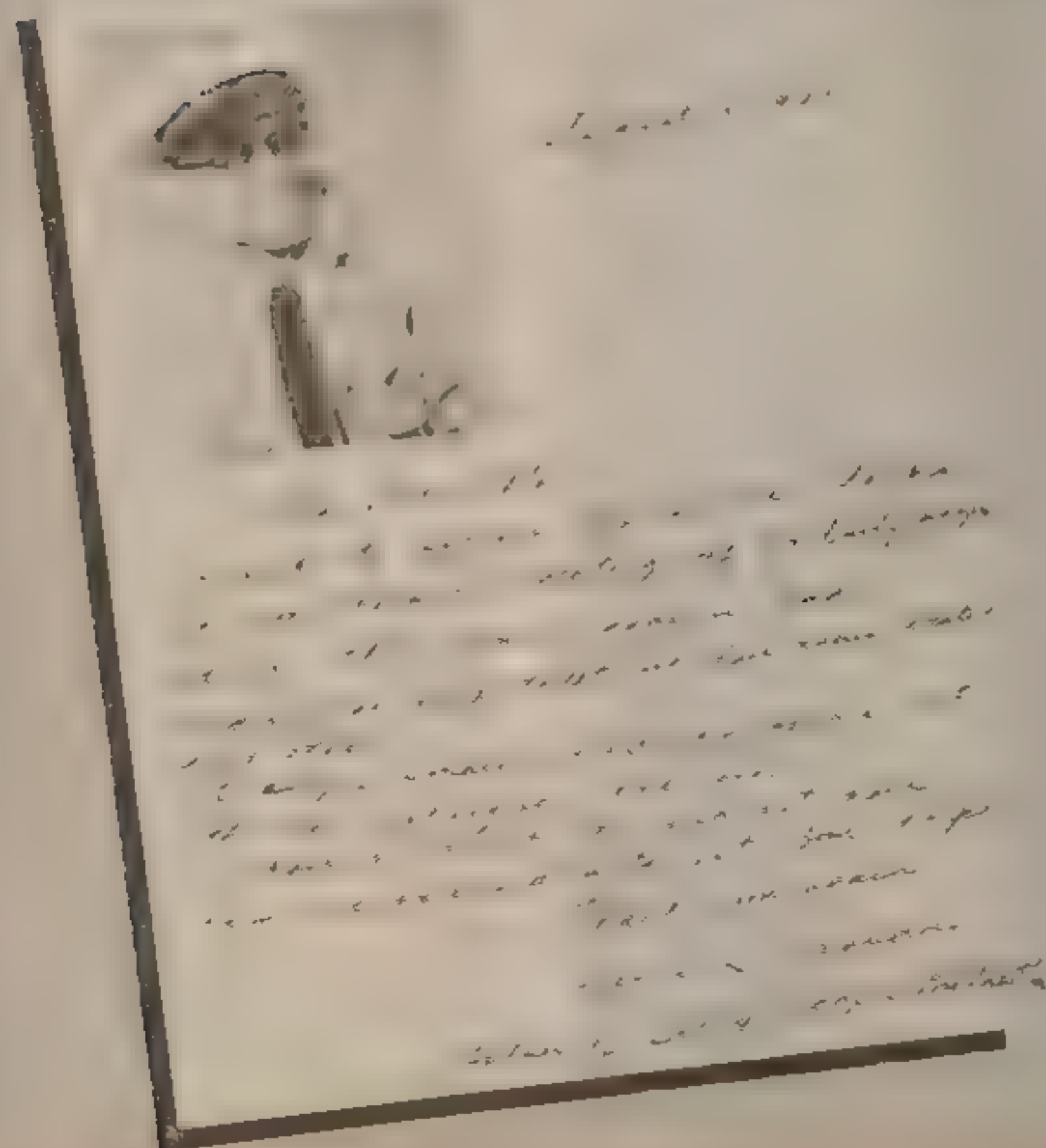
Mr. Jeaudion enclosed a letter describing his ordeal. I decided to include it in its entirety.

"His name was Bobby Jeaudion. Even as a little boy, he was big. I remember when Bobby was 12 and a member of the Washington Little League baseball champions. Baseball was his first love. Bob was a power hitter with homeruns a specialty. But he loved all sports and lettered in both baseball and football at our local high school in Vancouver, Washington.

Bob's ambitions were to go into college sports, eventually pro sports, and hopefully a coaching position. But life has a way of changing plans. During Bob's senior year in high school, his mother died suddenly from a massive heart attack. After graduation, Bob joined the Army. Bob insisted on volunteering for duty in Vietnam. He spent one year in Vietnam with the First Comb as a combat infantry man.

After discharge, Bob returned to his home town, found a job at a local mill, and attempted to settle down. For a while, Bob submerged his deep love for sports. Yet a friendship with some of the local wrestlers, especially Lonnie Mayne, rekindled Bob's dormant desires. One day Bob decided to try a career in professional wrestling and took to the road to find his fame and fortune.

Several years passed, and although we were able to maintain contact, again life changed plans.



For years, Bobby Jaggers hadn't seen his father. He didn't know where he was, or even if he was dead or alive. Then a letter came into our office from Jaggers' Dad, asking for help in locating his son. It seemed a simple task for such an awesome result. We're glad it turned out so well



Days after being reunited with his father, Bobby Jaggers battles Jim Garvin. Above: Bobby applies a headlock. Below: Jaggers lands an elbow.



Single life wasn't for me. After eight years of loneliness, I found someone to share my life. And 31 years in the Fire Department enabled me to retire. With retirement and my new partner
(Continued on page 56)

The Greatest Bounty Hunters In History

NOTHING IS QUITE as unnerving as a phone call in the middle of the night.

"Soon as I heard the phone ring, my heart beat like some

kinda wild-eyed jackhammer," recalled Dusty Rhodes.

By the seventh ring, Rhodes calmed down enough to answer the phone.

"Yeah?" Rhodes had answered, recalling his gruff manner.

"Dusty, this is Andre the Giant. How are you, my friend?"

Only Andre's gentle voice could have reassured Rhodes. He relaxed.

"Fine, buddy, what's up?" Dusty had glanced at the clock. Three-thirty.

"Dusty, we must do something about the Andersons." Rhodes had tensed. Both the emotional and physical scars of Ole's blind-side attack were revived in Dusty's mind.

"I'm with you, Andre."

"We cannot let them get away with this."

"You're telling me."

"It is even more than what they did to you, my friend. What they did is unspeakable. Declaring war on a brother, attacking a man of your stature.

DUSTY & ANDRE TEAM TO DESTROY THE ANDERSONS

Dusty Rhodes and Andre the Giant have teamed before. But never with the fierce dedication as this recent attempt to obliterate Gene and Ole Anderson. The Andersons have violated every principle Rhodes and Andre hold dear. To allow these loathsome brothers to debase wrestling runs counter to everything Rhodes and Andre believe in



and violating every morality we have ever known cannot go unpunished. We must team together and destroy them."

"My bags are packed, Andre."

The two 'superstars' have pooled their energies under other critical situations. It never required more than a call to bring them together. If Andre were in trouble, he called Dusty and received instant aid. If Rhodes were in trouble, he called Andre and received immediate assistance. One thing differed in this case.

All wrestling is in trouble.

By now, all fans know the sad

tale of the Anderson Brothers Civil War. How Ole attacked Dusty Rhodes for absolutely no reason at all. How Lars rushed into the ring, the entire arena, including Ole, believing his brother would aid in the mugging. How Lars instead helped Rhodes, incurring the wrath of both of his brothers. How Gene and Ole declared Lars is no longer an Anderson. How the loneliest brother must defend his honor against his own family.

"Nothin' is more important to a man than kin," said Rhodes. "When all is said and done, you

need your kin to come home to. Nothin' gives a man greater pleasure than sittin' around a dinner table with his kin on the holidays.

"That's why the Andersons are so dangerous. They're tearin' apart the fabric of wrestling. They're anti-family and there can't be none of that in wrestlin'. Wrestling' is a family sport, a place you take your wife and kids to, where the old-fashioned principles of honor, integrity, and devotion are revered. Anyone threatenin' that threatens wrestlin' and

(Continued on page 58)



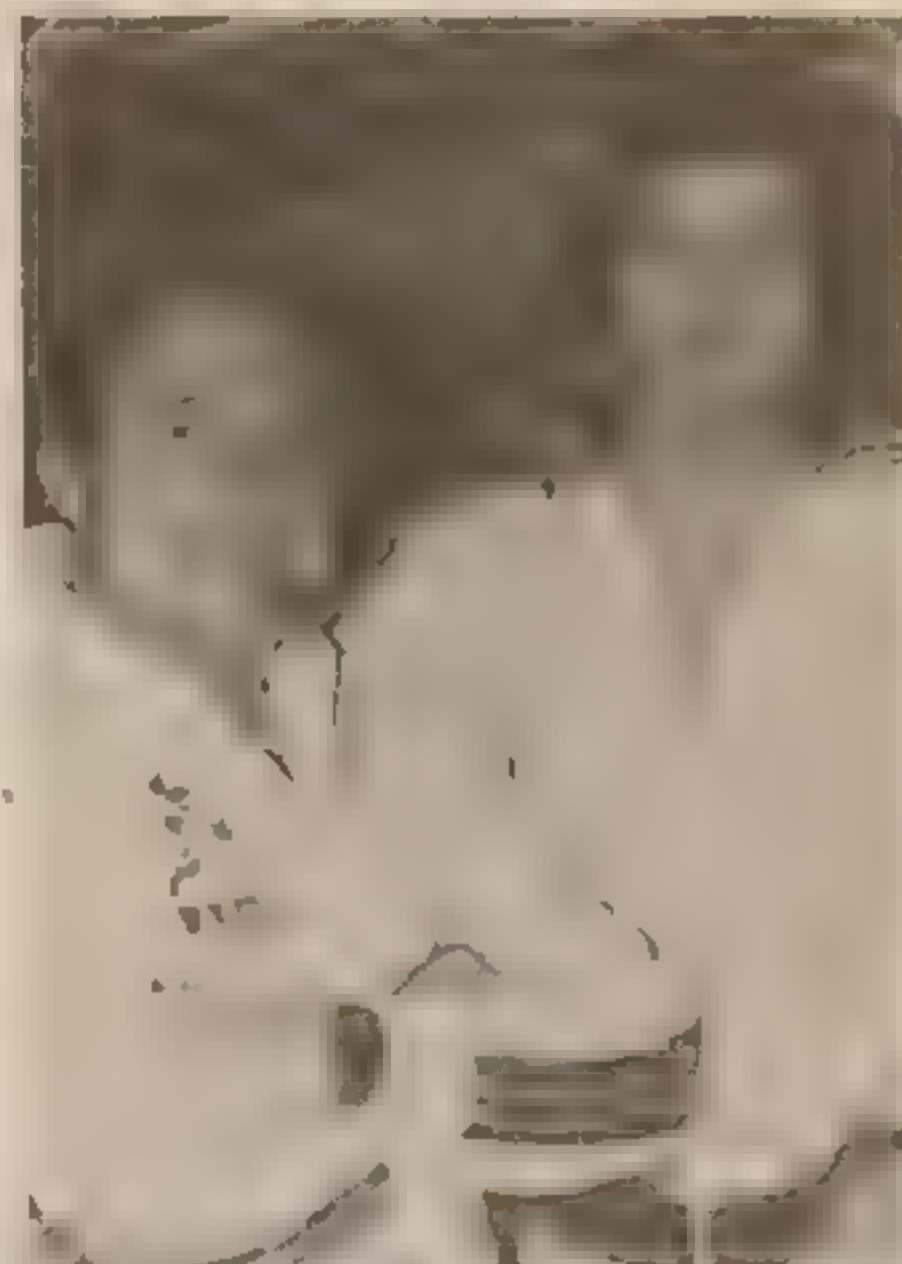
A bloody Ole Anderson is lifted 7-feet-4-inches into the air (opposite left). Andre twists and slams Gene Anderson's left arm (above). Dusty maintains the advantage over Gene outside the ring (below). The popular winners (right).



Greg Gagne is sick of hearing Bobby Heenan shoot off his mouth in all directions. As Nick Bockwinkel's manager, Heenan



enjoyed a certain protection as he darted around the ring, poking and interfering without subjecting himself to any real danger. So Gagne called Heenan out and challenged him. Surprisingly, Heenan accepted



DEEPLY ENTRENCHED in the Far Eastern philosophy is the belief that whatever one

THE BATTLE

No matter the emotion, all actions possess a ripple effect. The Verne Gagne-Nick

OF THE SECONDS

gives out to the Universe comes back in different forms with each original emotion amplified. Thus

a person full of love receives back greater love. A person filled with hate receives greater hate.

Bockwinkel AWA title match this past summer in Comiskey Park in Chicago was no



exception. The disputed result will linger and gnaw at Bockwinkel, undermine Gagne's title reign, and forever maintain the bad feelings between Bockwinkel and Gagne.

That bout affected more than just champion and challenger. It also affected the two men seconding in the corners. Both Bobby Heenan and Greg Gagne are inexorably involved in the controversy. Now the seeds of the Gagne-Bockwinkel feud has spread and consumed these two

"I want to put baby Greg in a high-chair and push him off a cliff," snickered Heenan. "One thing I really hate are punks who live off their father's name, even a bad name like Gagne. If Greg didn't get pushed every step of the way by his dear daddy, he'd be sweeping floors instead of wrestling. That's if you consider what he does wrestling. I'd call it a comedy routine more than anything else."

Greg has kind words for Heenan, too.

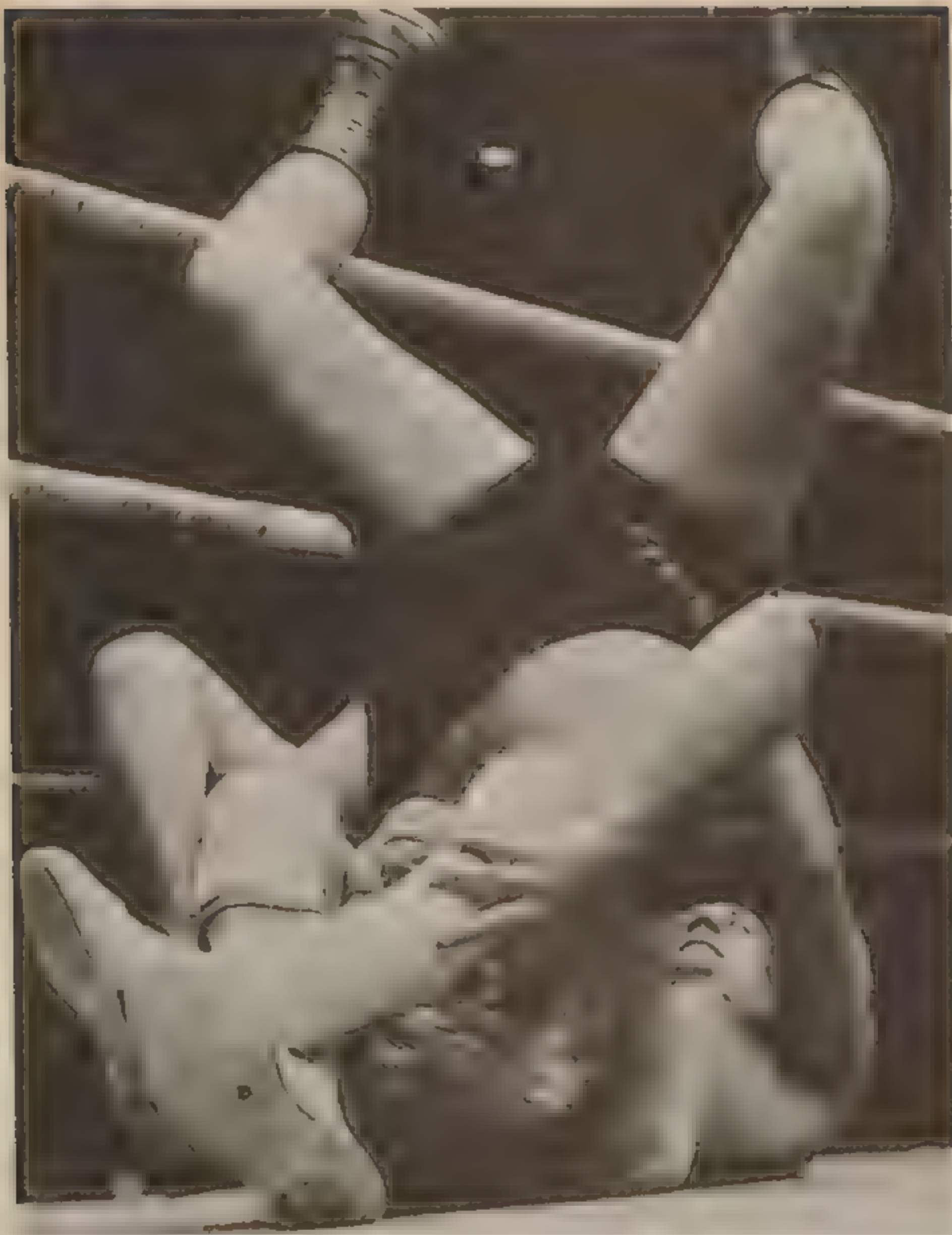
"Talk about big mouths," said Greg. "His mouth gotta be the size of the Atlantic Ocean, except there's more intelligent life swimming in the ocean than there is swimming inside that feeble brain of his

"You have to question the man's mind. Listen to what he says about my Dad's win over his buddy, Bockwinkel." Greg brandished a newspaper clipping. "According to Heenan, and I quote: 'Verne Gagne knows one way to win and that's by cheating. And he isn't even a good cheater. Everyone in Comiskey Park saw Gagne choking Nick. Everyone except the referee, and we saw Verne slip some bills into the ref's hands.' Now how can you take anything seriously that dribbles out of the mouth of a fool like that?"

Unless carefully scrutinized, this rivalry might be confused as



It was a natural follow-up to the historic match between Nick Bockwinkel and Verne Gagne. These two men simply do not like each other. Gagne stiff-arms Heenan trying to escape from a leglock.



Heenan does a headstand in an attempt to loosen Gagne's grip, but Greg counters by slamming Bobby's head into the mat. Greg continually frustrated Heenan with his brilliant wrestling skills.

flowing solely out of the Gagne-Bockwinkel feud. Surely Greg resents Heenan's charges against his father, as Heenan seethes over the belief Verne choked the title out of his wrestler's hands

Such bitterness between these men would be natural and understandable. But far more is at issue here than any derivative contempt.

Greg Gagne is a proud man. Any knowledgeable wrestling observer knows he has made his impressive mark on wrestling through his own skills, with little importance attached to his

legendary last name. Despite his successes, Gagne still suffers from the "son-of-a-famous-father" syndrome. Many talented offsprings found their promising careers and, in some cases, their lives shattered by the suffocating shadows of a famous parent

Fortunately for Gagne, he has escaped this syndrome. He studiously carved his own reputation built on his own brand of wrestling and his own ring style. While close to Verne, Greg kept a careful distance when it came to his own career, determined to be known

as Greg Gagne, not Verne's son.

Still, men like Bobby Heenan know this is to be a delicate side of Greg and seek to exploit it with vicious words. Greg knows he cannot allow such vile gossip to gain credence and thus must destroy the words at their base.

Equally proud is Bobby Heenan. His success as manager of Bockwinkel's lengthy AWA title reign earned him deserved plaudits and grudging praise for his fiery wit and intellect. But Heenan's managerial successes depend on Bockwinkel's ring successes. What distressed Heenan was Bockwinkel's uninterrupted string of victories while he, Heenan, served out a suspension in Georgia. Seemingly Heenan had little effect on Bockwinkel.

So rumors spread about Heenan. Filthy dirty words like "parasite," like "worm" infuriated him. Heenan believed himself to be a major talent in his own right without the need for anyone else. In fact, Heenan often perceived himself as winning a major title as a wrestler to add to his enormous managerial triumphs.

Thus two dissimilar motivations met inside the Winnipeg Arena. Gagne to prove he was not only his father's son, but a great wrestler no matter his name. Bobby Heenan to prove he could equal if not better anyone when it came to actually grappling.

Only Gagne proved anything that night. Heenan swiftly reverted to rulebreaking at the first hint of trouble. It was Gagne who handled himself with decorum and skill. It was Gagne who beat back Heenan's ruthless charges with sureness and speed. It was Gagne who emerged the winner, not Heenan.

All Heenan showed was he is no different inside the ring than out. And that isn't a compliment. □

Valentine vs. Flair:



THEIR BLOOD IS GOOD FOR WRESTLING

RED OCEANS LINKED by unmoving fleshy ships inundated the empty mat. This was the battlefield after Greg Valentine and Ric Flair finished with each other. Once again, they sought each other's destruction, sought to cripple, maim, and hurt. Once again Mid-Atlantic fans were treated to a gory spectacle the likes of which haven't been seen since the Roman Coliseum days.

Maybe, just maybe this feud

is good for wrestling. Oh, surely the cries of protest from citizens groups concerned for the welfare of the sport must be considered. The detrimental effect of mindless violence on the very young should be considered.

"We want this feud stopped by any means possible," declared Loretta Campbell, a spokesperson for Housewives Against Wrestling Violence, a Charlotte-based organization

claiming membership over 2,000. "What's gonna happen in the ring is one of these young boys is gonna lose his life. Is anything worth losin' a life over?"

Petitions flood the Mid-Atlantic offices demanding an end to the Flair-Valentine feud. Many petitioners aren't affiliated with any organization but speak clearly from their guts.

"I don't think this feud helps anyone," wrote Myron Peabody of Richmond, Virginia.

Right now, the Greg Valentine-Ric Flair feud threatens to eclipse all previous feuds in terms of violence brutality, and bloodshed. Many fear the inevitable tragedy of the feud and call on both participants to walk away. Yet this growing violence may be, in fact, good for wrestling

PHOTOS BY KEVIN KRON



"I don't want to see the night Flair kills Valentine," said Kenneth Day, Sumter, South Carolina.

"It'll be a sorry day when Valentine kills Flair," wrote Chester Slanders, Charlotte, North Carolina.

On and on the letters and petitions streamed into the official offices. No matter the personal favorite, one thing grew clear: the feud must cease.

But should it? Which is genuinely preferable, separating the protagonists before resolution and forcing them to submerge their hostilities, or letting them settle the issue once and for all.

Take the point that Flair and Valentine won't be permitted to wrestle against each other anymore. Consider all the unsettled hate and hostility that would continue to seethe through their veins. Valentine wouldn't hate Flair any less. If

anything, he would feel frustrated at not destroying Flair. Any hope of Valentine reforming would vanish as the pent-up emotions built and built. Against every foe, Valentine's seething contempt would erupt, fanning the already considerable fires of embitteredness into one giant flame of senseless hatred.

Think of Valentine's future foes, innocent men without any connection to the feud. Should they suffer the effects of Valentine's hatred for Flair? Hardly. There is serious injustice in such an outcome. Everyone must pay for the sins and crimes of the past, but there should be some limits to such tardy payment. A Blackjack Mulligan shouldn't have to bear the burden of Valentine's hate for another.

It simply isn't right.

And the more Valentine ponders his hate, the further he





Valentine seeks escape from the ring, but Flair grabs him by the hair and lands an elbow to his forehead (opposite left). Valentine works his way to the turnbuckles, forcing Flair to break his hammerlock (above). Valentine pins down Ric's shoulders and will deliver a series of kneedrops (below).



drifts from hope of reformation. Soon he will be unapproachable, a deranged warrior stationed high atop a remote fortress, the parameters of his fury imprisoning his tortured soul.

And what of Flair? Already rumors abound he might turn bad guy. Wouldn't the risks increase greatly of Flair's return to rulebreaking if he cannot unleash his anger? What if Flair is provoked and, in a brief moment of rage, mistakes some innocent partner for Greg Valentine? What of the resultant scorn that would be heaped upon Flair merely because he's unable to discharge his swollen seed of passion?

Do all these fans who bombard officials with letters consider the immense responsibility they must all bear if Flair is driven back into the rulebreaking fold, a young knight unable to find a receptacle for his emotions and compelled by the public to brutalize away the rage.

Is this really what the fans want? Hardly. Flair and Valentine must be permitted to settle their feud. It is good for wrestling. Their bloodshed cleanses the sport of impurities, resolves the feud in the way all wrestling feuds must be resolved.

But the destruction of one wrestler. Yes, that sad fact must be faced. One of these men will soon face the termination of a promising career. Neither wanted it to go this far. Surely the public didn't want it to go this far.

But this is the way it has become. Whoever wanted it or not really doesn't matter anymore. It must be resolved through the fury and violence and bloodshed that is professional wrestling at its very worst.

Or best.

□

TOLOS:

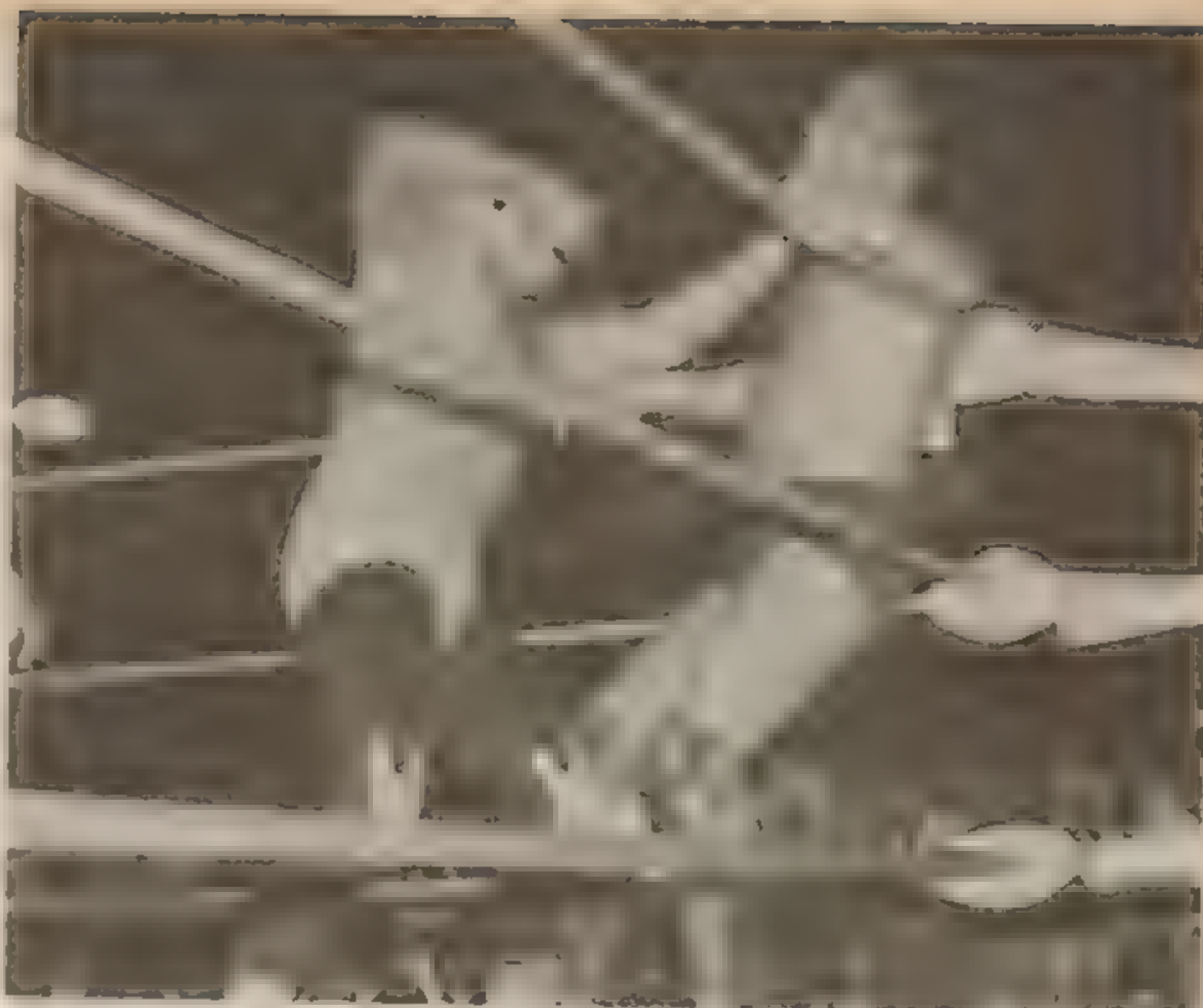


**THE NAME THAT MAKES
MIL MASCARAS A KILLER**

AT THE MERE mention of John Tolos, the mask pulls tightly around the handsome forehead, the thin lips purse, and the dark eyes sizzle with inner rage. Labored breaths stumble up the muscular chest and topple out of the wide mouth, and broad hands clench the air.

Even a steaming shower, vigorous massage, and two glasses of bottled Mexican water fail to quiet Mil Mascaras' fury. Finally he slumps against the locker, his facial muscles quivering behind the mask.

"I have never hated anyone like I hate John Tolos," muttered Mascaras, two fingers pulling on the locker handle. "I want him destroyed. But I must be the instrument of destruction. Only I deserve this sweet vengeance. It belongs to me, no one else."



When Mascaras gets in the ring with Tolos, the science of wrestling becomes secondary. Mil backs Tolos into a corner and sets him up for a right.

Whenever Mil Mascaras hears the name John Tolos, his mask twists with fury. He perceives Tolos as the very embodiment of treachery and evil. He remembers Tolos as a friend and partner. Now he can only look on Tolos as a mortal enemy, a man who must be destroyed. Mascaras has sworn himself to this

PHOTOS BY THEO EHRET

What could have transformed the invariably even-tempered Mascaras into a wild man determined to destroy another human being?

Many years ago, Mascaras and Tolos were embroiled in the hottest and bloodiest feud ever to shake California. No type of match was too brutal for them. There were head-shaving matches, steel cage matches, strap matches, and all-out brawls with the entire arena as the battleground.

Tolos even committed the supreme insult by wearing a mask into the ring in a vicious mockery of Mascaras. Insulting Mascaras' masks is the mortal sin.

Still, the feud appeared to draw to a conclusion. Tolos had a change of heart and the hatred was buried. In his last few matches in Los Angeles, Tolos appeared



Mascaras whips Tolos into the ropes and drops the "Golden Greek" to the canvas with a cross bodyblock.



reformed and adhered to the time-honored principles of scientific wrestling, of which Mil Mascaras is a grand master.

Tolos traveled south to Hawaii, where he encountered stiff opposition yet prevailed often enough to capture several local championships. Upon Tolos' return to Los Angeles, wrestling anticipated a new era of harmony and friendship between Tolos and Mascaras. Including Mil.

"I thought he had finally turned good," said Mascaras.

For his first return matches, Tolos exhibited restraint. Observers hailed the "new" John Tolos as a man befitting member-

In his patented finishing maneuver, Mascaras flies at Tolos with a bodypress from the top turnbuckle. John is too stunned to move

ship in the star category. Even Mascaras issued pleased statements.

"I am very happy my good friend John Tolos has decided to stay a scientific wrestler and stop cheating," said Mil.

All the harmony and hope lasted a brief while. Suddenly Tolos turned vicious, crueler than ever, unleashing horrifying attacks on every grappler in the area.

Alberto Madril and Chavo Guerrero bore Tolos' insane wrath. And in the most shocking wrestling attack ever, Tolos had the amoral

effrontery to assault Madril's mother while she sat at ringside. That sadistic beating fostered uncontrollable threats of vengeance amid all the Los Angeles-based scientific wrestlers.

"He'll pay for that," vowed Madril.

"How can anyone do such a thing," asked Guerrero shortly before he left the area.

But the harshest words flowed forth from Mascaras.

"This is something which cannot go unpunished," said Mascaras. "Tolos has betrayed everyone, the fans, the wrestlers, even himself. Such treachery cannot stand. I will not allow a man like this to live within the squared circle and debase all that I have fought for during my entire life.

"I am proud to be a professional wrestler. To me, it is the most honored of all possible professions. I am proud the way fans look up to wrestlers and seek to emulate them. I am proud to receive the thousands of letters saying how little kids want to be like me and parents who say what a fine role model I am and others like me are to their impressionable children.

"But Tolos is a bad man. He sets a bad example. To allow him to run crazy and allow children to see that crime might pay is the worst thing that could ever happen to wrestling. I cannot stand by and permit this travesty of principles. To stand on the sidelines and allow Tolos free rein to destroy the sport I and millions love is like dying myself.

"And I am not ready to die. Tolos must be ready to die."

Mascaras tore open the locker. From the top shelf poured dozens of letters, burying his feet. He bent over and re-read a letter from a young boy in Los Angeles. Mascaras gently replaced the letter on the shelf, closed the locker and strode into the arena, prepared to battle that boy's enemy.

John Tolos. □

DAVID VON ERICH:

EVEN AS A CHILD, David Von Erich found himself fascinated by his father's wrestling.

"Every chance I got, I watched Dad wrestle," said David. "I was amazed by what he could do to opponents in the squared circle. While other kids watched cartoons or cowboy movies, I watched Dad wrestle.

"I remember one time Dad was supposed to bring home a tape of a match and something happened, he was rushed, I don't know, and he didn't bring it home. I felt like the world had fallen on me."

At one point, Fritz urged young David to try and not completely imitate him.

"I didn't want people to always refer to any of my kids as Fritz Von Erich's kid," said the elder Von Erich. "I knew they had to establish their own identity at an early age or they'd never become unique individuals, both in and out of the ring."

But David idolized his father, imitating his walk, his manner, his style.

"I wanted to be just like Dad," said David.



CLAWING HIS WAY OUT OF HIS FATHER'S SHADOW

David Von Erich has proven a great deal to a great many people in his brief, yet successful ring career. But the one person David had yet to fully convince was himself. He needed that one match in which to prove HIS clawhold and HIS skills. Once and for all, David Von Erich had to leave his father's shadow

PHOTOS BY ROGER DEEM



But whether David or any of the young Von Erichs wanted to be like their father almost didn't matter, for their opponents often characterized them as extensions of Fritz. They have been taunted and abused, referred to as young punks or wimps. The jealousy they engender among other

wrestlers, notably Gino Hernandez, is amazing

"Yeah, some of them don't like us," said David.

Still, David's flattering imitation of his father only increased the suffocating shadows of his father's fame. Even after David firmly

established himself as a worthy and legitimate wrestler, the comparisons continued. After a while David felt frustrated by the relentless comparisons, found their tone stifling, their message undermining.

"Yeah, I'm proud of my father and damn proud of all I ever

learned from him. And I'd never want to say anything bad about him because there isn't anything bad I could possibly say. But I would like people to recognize me as myself once and for all," said David.

The only way David could possibly break the pattern was to wrestle a man of Fritz's time, a man whose clawhold had become synonymous with danger. A man like Baron Von Raschke.

"Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to apply the brain claw to David Von Erich's head and squeeze his brain out of his ears," said Von Raschke. "It wouldn't require as much effort as usual because I wouldn't have to squeeze very hard. Von Erich's brain is very small and very mushy, much like that of a young squid."

"I enjoy destroying the Von Erichs because they embarrass true exponents of the clawhold like myself. They have no idea how to use this wonderful maneuver and only ruin it, thus giving the public, those of whom can possibly be intelligent enough to understand, a serious misconception of the uses and wonders of the claw."

"The clawhold can be used to reshape a small mind, like David Von Erich's. I can press it together so, at the moment of its destruction, it understands why it must be destroyed. I have used the clawhold to obliterate foes before and each time I feel invigorated and cleansed, an understandable situation since I have rid the world of one more inferior creature."

"The Von Erichs are truly inferior. They can do nothing right. They cannot wrestle, cannot speak nor think. They embarrass and demean all wrestlers with that ignorant posture and pitiful maneuvering. I know I do a great public service when I vow to destroy David Von

Nothing like it was ever witnessed before. David Von Erich and Baron Von Raschke disregarded all strategies, except the application of the brain claw, and the pictures show the horrifying results.



Erich.

"And what irritates me most of all is the way he professes to use my clawhold. He has no idea what he is doing. He is completely wrong about using it. Well, what can you expect? He learned it from his father. And who do you think Fritz learned

the clawhold from? Me. I taught Fritz the clawhold by applying it to his brain on many occasions. He would have perished but I soon discovered he had nothing to claw."

Such insults drove to the very core of David Von Erich's soul. At stake was more than his father's reputation or his family's legendary status. Now Von Raschke had attacked David himself. Such conduct could not go unpunished.

"I wanted to whip him real badly," said David. "I know how to use the clawhold. I've been using it for a long time. I don't need anyone to help me or tell me I don't know what I'm doing. I am David Von Erich and I'm a damn good wrestler and no bobo like Von Raschke is going to tell me different and get away with it."

Von Erich and Von Raschke met in a brutal battle of the clawhold. Von Erich displayed his own unique style and skill in defeating the evil rulebreaker.

"Okay, I used the clawhold, which Dad taught me. But he wasn't here. This was my battle and my enemy. And I won." □

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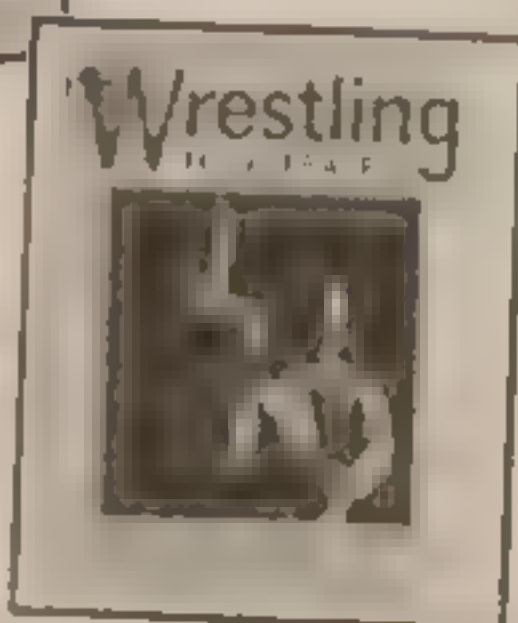


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THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

(Continued from Page 18)



THUMBS UP to Greg Gagne:
Some wrestlers fear straying too
far from a famous father's
protective shadow. But Greg
Gagne has carved an impressive
niche of his own in professional
wrestling. His impressive achieve-
ments and unique style of wrestling
earn him the admiration of all.

THUMBS DOWN to John Tolos:
This man committed the single
most sickening act ever witnessed
in a wrestling arena: attacking
Alberto Madril's mother. Nothing
justifies assaulting a defenseless
woman at ringside. This
disgusting, sub-human behavior
deserves universal condemnation.
We hope Madril evens the score.



THUMBS UP to Mr. Wrestling:
Recently, Mr. Wrestling II was
blind-sided by a Georgia
rulebreaker. Tragedy seemed
imminent. But Tim Woods raced
down the aisle and aided his friend.
Afterwards, Woods made a vow
that his pal Mr. Wrestling II
would never have to worry about
sneak-attacks again as long as he,
Mr. Wrestling, is around.

THUMBS DOWN to Austin Idol:
Recent matches in Tennessee
indicate Idol may be reverting back
to rulebreaker. While no
conclusive pattern yet emerges.
Idol's brutish behavior alarms
longtime followers who thought
Idol finally embraced scientific
wrestling. We hope his behavior
is temporary. ☐



THE HANGMAN

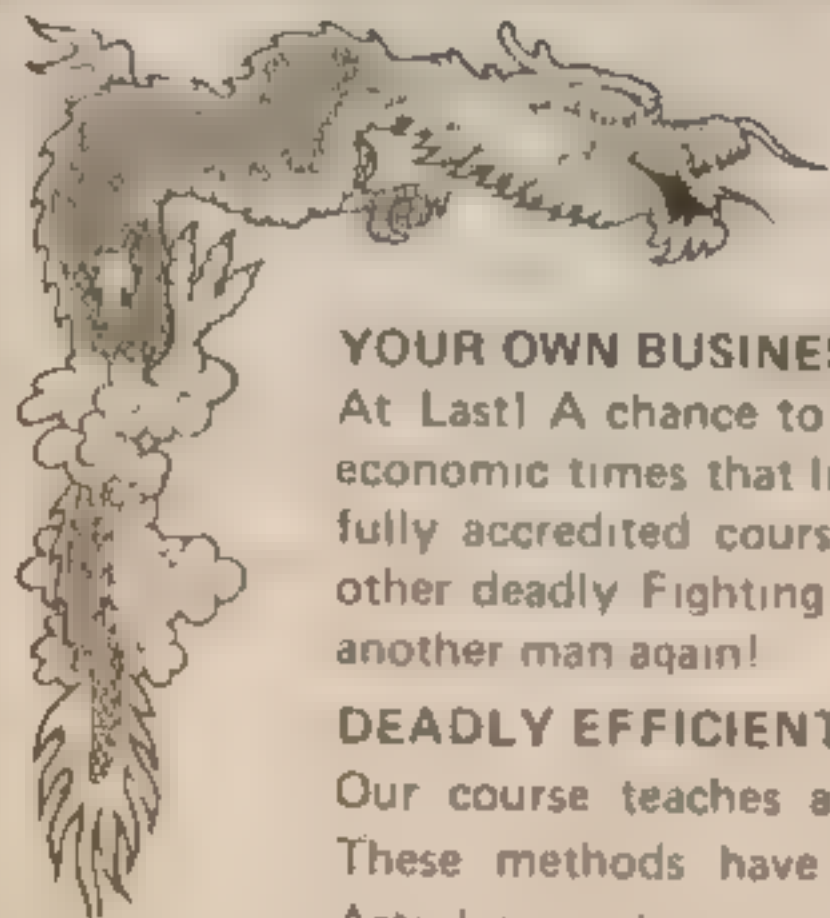
(Continued from Page 25)



The referee has to be extremely careful when the Hangman is in the ring. Living up to his name, the Hangman's hands are always near his opponent's neck.

Though somewhat amused by the Hangman's approach, Backlund remains cautious. "You almost have to laugh," the WWF champion said. "This guy is so deranged that he really thinks he's back in the Old West. He doesn't know where the heck he is, but he certainly knows what he wants to do. He's a very dangerous man, but he must be stopped."

Mrs. Mergenthaler will not comment on her favorite wrestler. She looks away from her knitting only when he is in the ring. She smiles only when he drops his opponent's neck across the top rope. "Hang 'em high. Hangman," she shouts toward the ring. ☐



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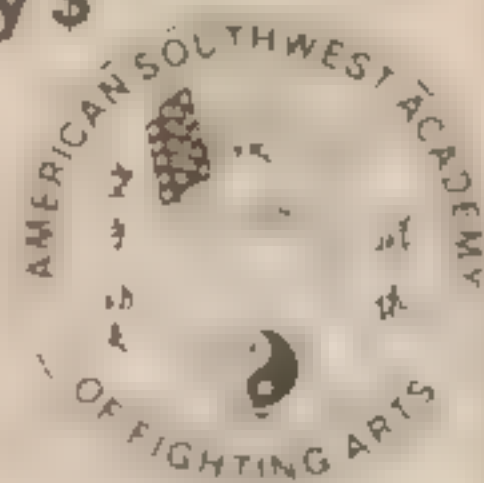
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YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 12)

After all, Ernie Ladd repre-
sents greatness whereas Mr.
Wrestling II represents the
very sum of mediocrity. If I
decided to carry II, he'd have
to do things my way. I don't
want him dragging my great-
ness down to his inept levels."
Mr. Wrestling II replied. "The
thought of teaming with Ernie
Ladd makes me physically

A: No one in wrestling under-
stands Sammartino and
Backlund quite the way
Skoaland does. "As everyone
knows, I managed Bruno all
those years and I think I know
him pretty well. And, of
course, I'm presently
managing Bob," said Skoa-
land. "Bruno's a proud man
and very ambitious. I think



Arnold Skoaland would like to see a clean, scientific match between Bob Backlund and Bruno Sammartino (above).

and emotionally ill. Under
no circumstances would I ever
consider pairing with such a
man. He is everything I
oppose. He cheats, lies, and
stabs people in the back. I
don't know how that ugly
rumor got started, but I want
it put to rest right now."

Q: "What does Arnold Skoaland
think about the possibility of
Bruno Sammartino wrestling
WWF champion Bob Back-
lund?"—Steven Mondelli,
Kingston, NY

deep down he'd like to be
champion again. But Bruno
also respects Bob and the
converse is true. For these
two men to climb into the ring
and try to batter each other
simply for a title requires
some element of personal
animosity, which simply
doesn't exist. What I'd like to
see is a clean, fair scientific
match which both are capable
of, to settle the issue. Still, I
think a Sammartino-Backlund
match is a questionable
proposition."

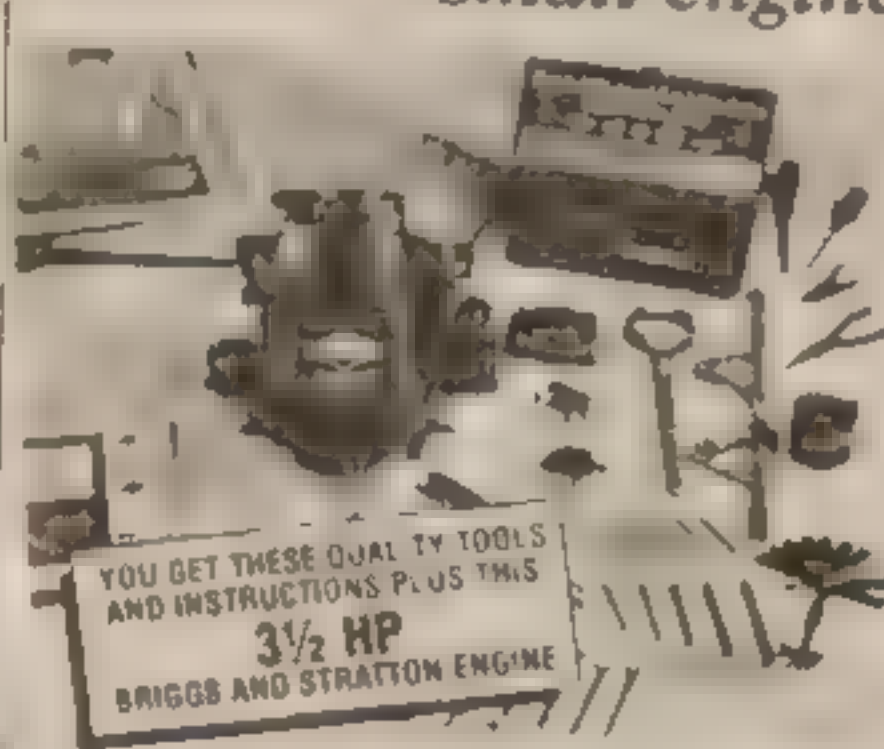
Q: "Why did Tommy Rich leave Georgia and what is he doing now?"—Elena Sanchez, Albany, GA

A: Tommy Rich vowed to leave Georgia if he was unable to defeat Harley Race for the NWA championship. A man

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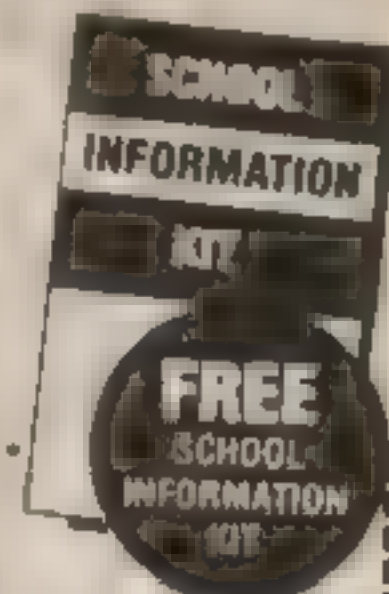
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of honor, Rich left the state, saying he didn't wish to disappoint his fans any longer. Currently Rich is wrestling in Tennessee.

Q: "What does Rick Steamboat think about the return of Paul Jones to the Mid-Atlantic area?"—Harriet Olivetti, Spartansburg, SC

A: "To be honest, I still have my doubts about Paul. But I'm willing to give him the benefit of the doubt and see if his intentions are sincere. If Paul shows he has genuinely abandoned rulebreaking, I'll extend the hand of friendship and maybe even renew our tag team on a more frequent basis," answered Steamboat. ☐

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 8)

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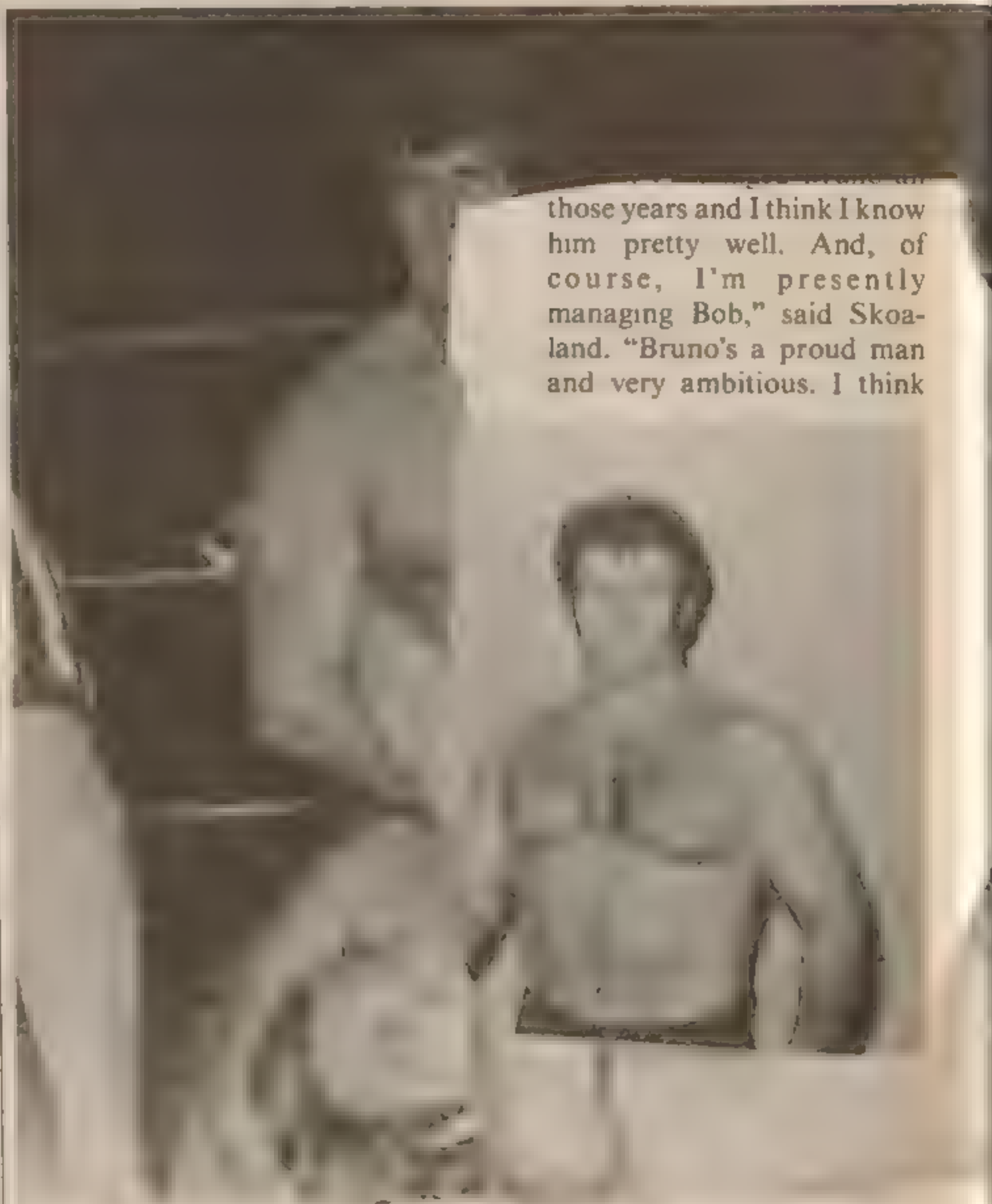
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those years and I think I know him pretty well. And, of course, I'm presently managing Bob," said Skoaland. "Bruno's a proud man and very ambitious. I think

got tired of being told to "shut up" on TV interviews by advisor Gene Anderson. "You talk too much," Anderson said as he pulled the microphone away from Superstar. Soon Anderson's NWA tag team champions, Ray Stevens and Jimmy Snuka, appeared on the screen to let Superstar know they agree with Anderson. Next fists started to fly as Superstar lost his composure and took on all three. Superstar was rescued by Blackjack Mulligan and other fan favorites. "I owe them a debt of gratitude," Superstar says. "I will pay them back by helping them rid the area of Anderson, Stevens, and Snuka - the big mouth trio!"

Pedro Morales is chasing Inter-Continental champion Ken Patera. Greg Valentine refuses to give Ric Flair another shot at the United States title. "I am tired of beating that wimp," exclaims Valentine. . . . Jim Brunzell is headed to Georgia. . . . Tony Garea is still trying to get a clear-cut victory over former friend Larry Zbyszko.

Edouard Carpentier is wrestling in Montreal, and he looks great. The "Flying Frenchman" has always been one of the sport's most popular stars. . . . John Tolos is in for a shock. His former enemy, Fred Blassie, is coming out of retirement (Blassie only manages

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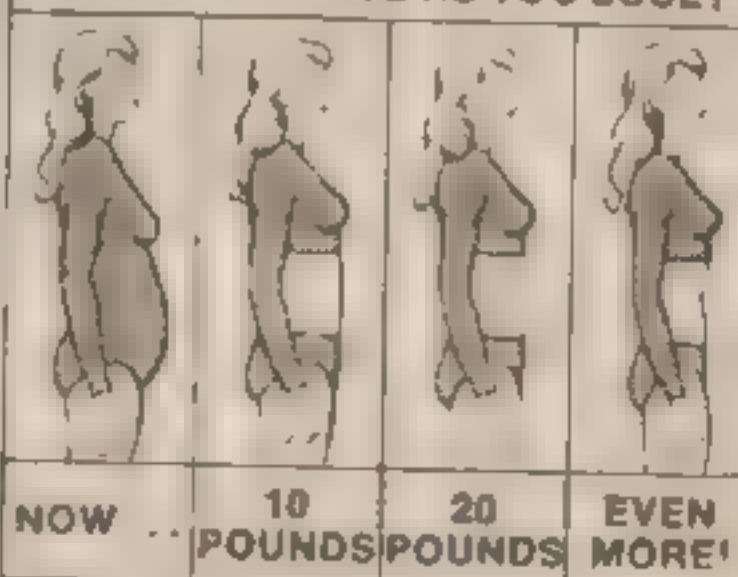
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Tony Garea applies an armlock to his former friend and co-holder of the WWF tag team title, Larry Zbyszko.

wrestlers now) and putting on the trunks to battle Tolos! Blassie says, "I have a score to settle with that geek!"

Jerry Lawler has returned to wrestling after a lengthy absence due to a leg injury. Jerry's first order of business is to destroy his ex-manager Jimmy Hart, a man Lawler claims double-crossed him when he needed him most... WBA Jr. Heavyweight champion Les Thornton made a smashing debut at New York Madison Square Garden... Massa Saito is on a

(Continued on page 54)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from Page 53)

winning streak in Georgia . . . Mr. Wrestling I and II took the Georgia tag team belts from the Assassins in a wild melee.

Ivan Koloff has left Florida since he and Nikolai Volkoff lost the Florida tag team title to Buggy McGraw and Bobo Brazil. Koloff is currently on a tour of Texas . . . Jerry Brisco and Dick Murdoch are a new team to be reckoned with in Florida . . . Rick Martel is going great guns in the WWF. The fans clamor for his great style and good looks.

Andre the Giant still cannot claim a victory over Hulk Hogan. In their last battle, refereed by Gorilla Monsoon, Hogan claimed that Monsoon did all he could to sway the match in Andre's favor.

"That is a lot of bunk!" says Monsoon. "There are 22,000 people who saw that match and I am sure that each and every one of them would testify that I did my job fairly. I think I am a pretty competent referee and a very fair one, too."

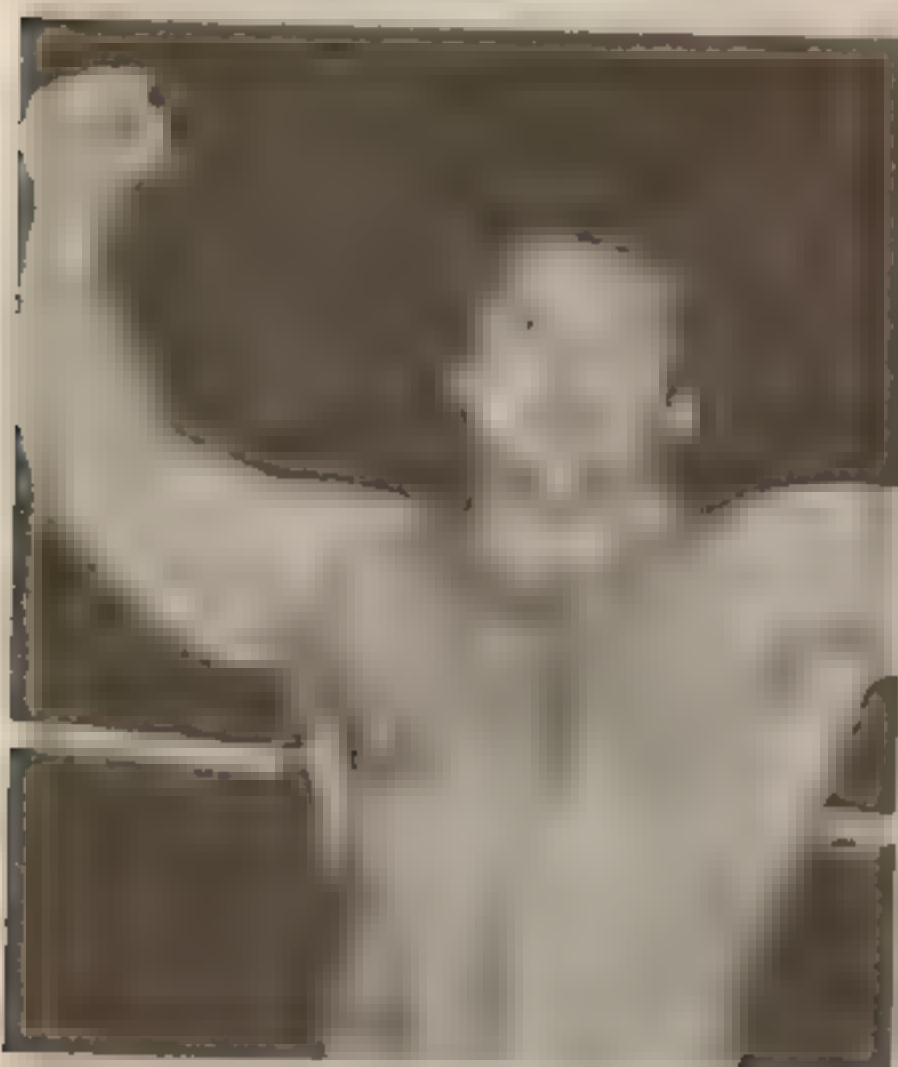


Gorilla Monsoon claims he was impartial when refereeing the battle between Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant. Hogan claims otherwise.

Tito Santana entered the AWA with hopes of winning the championship from Nick Bockwinkel. Now that Verne Gagne has the belt, have things changed for the young star?

"Not really," Tito told us from his St. Paul, Minnesota training base. "I know that if I work myself up, Verne Gagne will give me a shot at the title. He is a fair man and he likes wrestling scientific grapplers. I hope to get a chance at the title soon."

Ivan Putski has left the WWF and is wrestling in Texas. The main object of Ivan's hatred is Tully Blanchard. "He started out as a nice kid," Ivan explains, "and



Now in Texas, Ivan Putski is determined to teach Tully Blanchard the meaning of "Polish Power."

turned out to be a wise-ass punk. I want to straighten him out and show him that my kind of power outdoes his—and that's my Polish Power!"

Congratulations to Tom Pritchard, winner of California's "Rookie of the Year" award . . . John Tolos took honors as "Most Hated" . . . Terry Funk almost unmasked Uvalde Slim in Atlanta . . . It appears that Mid-Atlantic fans are now accepting Paul Jones. He is cheered louder and louder each time he enters the ring. "I am so glad they trust me again," he said

And that's what's happening! See you next month! ☐

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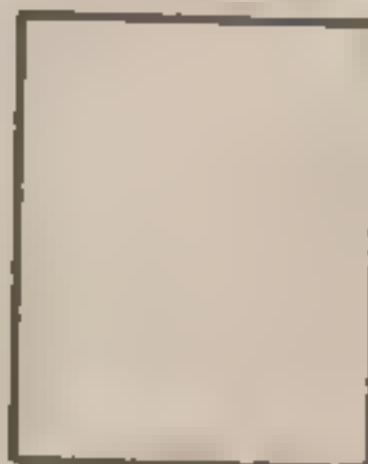
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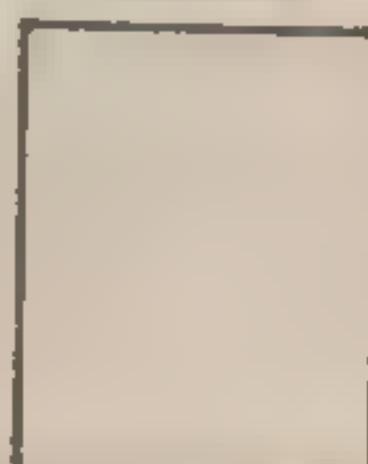
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(Continued from Page 33)

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came a new life.

I sold the old home and moved to a one-acre lot on the banks of one of my favorite fishing streams. Unfortunately, in all the hectic shuffling, Bob and I lost contact. Try as I might, I couldn't locate him.

My only clue was his profession—a pro wrestler.

I pressed my search in this direction. At the Portland Arena I found a local fan sincere in the

belief Bob was wrestling somewhere in Montana. However, a number of phone calls reached a dead end.

I was desperate. I really didn't know what to do. I turned to Bill Apter, managing editor of *The Wrestler*, for help. I wrote Mr. Apter and explained my predicament. A week later, a letter arrived. Just a line, a name, and a number.

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Bobby looks to ringside as he receives encouragement from his number one supporter, his father. Almost everyone has noticed that Bobby's intensity has increased since the reunion.



Garvin doubles over in pain as Jagers twists his left wrist. Although Jagers is not a fan favorite, this story is a touching one for any caring human being.

my son and me. My thanks go out to all the editors of *The Wrestler* magazine. This would have been an impossible task without their help."

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Sometimes you forget that there are people involved in wrestling. Sometimes the senseless savagery and relentless treachery numbs you to the kinder, decent people who comprise the majority of the sport.

I'm glad I was able to bring together two people. I'm very glad.

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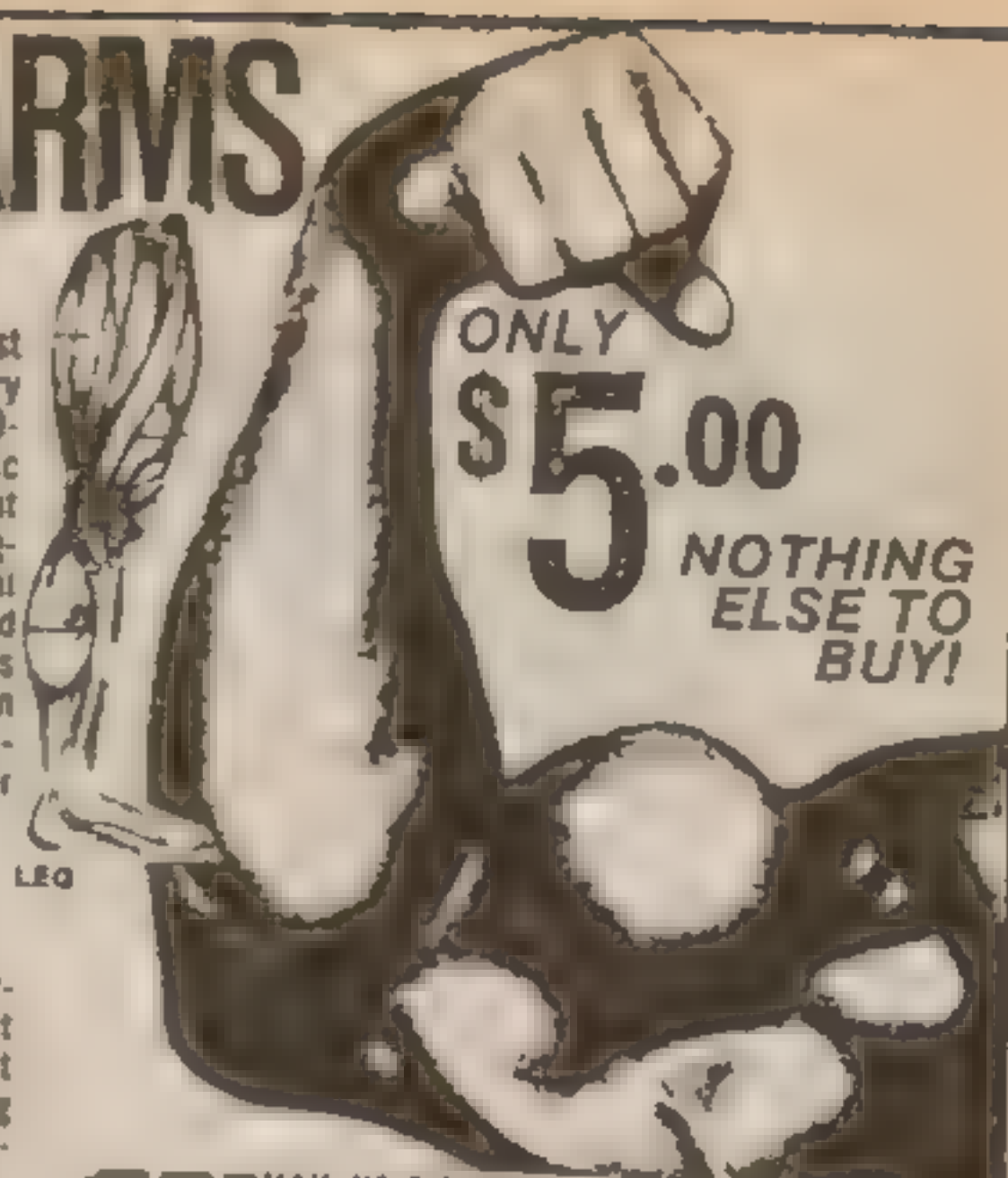
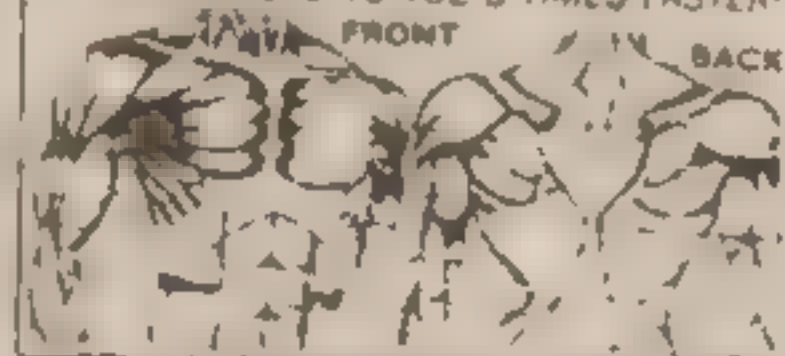
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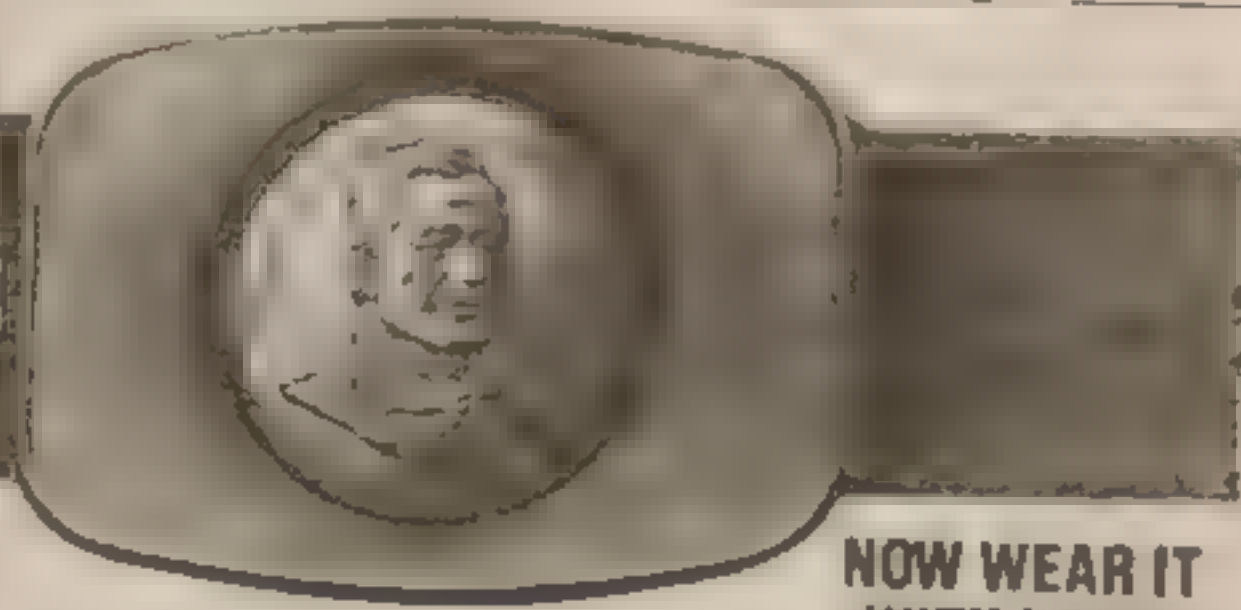
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DUSTY & ANDRE

(Continued from Page 35)



threatens me."

"I miss my family," said Andre. "Often, I stay awake at night thinking of them. I respect them and they respect me. To this day, I always help old ladies cross the street. And when it comes to the holidays, I make it a point to get together with my family."

Thus more was at stake than a mere attack or a grudge. Andre and Dusty felt it a solemn duty to demonstrate to the Andersons and anyone else inclined to commit similar sins in the future.

The Andersons gleefully

anticipated this bout.

"I always like wrestling a fat whale and a freak in the same night," laughed Ole. "How can anyone take a pig like Rhodes seriously? I'd think he'd be against families 'cause they usually roast pigs at holiday dinners."

"As for Andre, you can run a train around his slow, ugly body seven times before he'd realize what happened. He's gotta be the stupidest person around, though I can understand why he'd be so pro-family. Idiots need someone



With blood streaming down his face, Andre rests his 450 pounds on Gene Anderson's back (left). The Giant is about to fall upon a helpless Ole Anderson (above).

to take care of them."

Yet The Andersons insist they are not anti-family.

"We believe in a real family, where people stick together and won't beat on their brothers," shouted Gene. "Lars ain't our brother anymore, that's all there is to it. He don't deserve to be our brother so it ain't like we been beatin' on a brother, just another punk."

This bout demonstrated a wild brutality unseen in recent memory. Every gesture, every move, every maneuver seemed calculated to inflict the maximum punishment possible.

When all was done, Dusty and Andre won when the Andersons fled the ring. Still, they aren't gloating over their triumph.

"Sometimes you just miss destroying someone and you can only say next time," vowed Rhodes. □

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CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

(Continued from Page 10)

Dellasea . . . Rick Oliver lost a hard-fought battle to Eric Emery . . . Jonathan Boyd stopped Igor Volkoff.

WEIRTON, WV—Correspondent: Samuel Maropis—They tossed the rulebook out the window for this brutal bout between Pat Patterson and Tor Kamata. Before the bout officially started, Kamata sneak-attacked Patterson. Shortly the fight exploded beyond the ropes. Kamata grabbed a hammer from the scorer's table and tried to smash Patterson's skull. Somehow Patterson deflected the insane attack and bashed Kamata over the head with a metal chair. Once the action barreled back into the ring, Patterson utilized a sunset flip to defeat Kamata.

In other matches, Ivan Putski and Rene Goulet beat Samoan #1 and a bloody Lou Albano . . . Johnny DeFazio won by disqualification over Johnny Valiant . . . Tony Altimore stopped Red Demon . . . Nick Busick and Jim Grabmire wrestled to a draw.

MACON, GA—Correspondent: Hunter Eck—Kevin Sullivan, who never lost a streetfight, went against Maniac Mark Lewin in a particularly vicious brawl. Sullivan began the bout by whipping Lewin with a belt. Lewin made a comeback, aided by a pencil given him by manager Great Mephisto. Lewin repeatedly drove the pencil into Sullivan's face and seemed in control until Sullivan recovered and kicked his foe with cowboy boots. Sullivan smashed Lewin into the ringpost and flung him out of the ring for the victory.

In other matches, Mr. Wrestling II and Steve Keirn whipped The Assassins . . . Terry Taylor stomped Eddy Mansfield . . . Dennis Condrey beat Chavo

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Guerrero . . . Charlie Fulton stopped Steve Regal.

MINNEAPOLIS, MN—Correspondent: Jerry Wood—A vicious brawl consumed Jerry Blackwell and Crusher in the main event. The personal animosity between these two wrestlers erupted from the opening bell. Neither bothered with refined maneuvers. Instead, both lashed out with increasing violent maneuvers until their legs



Crusher Blackwell was beaten by Crusher but got his licks in after the bout.

wobbled from mutual batterings. Eventually Crusher triumphed, but Blackwell wasn't satisfied. After the bout, Blackwell attacked Crusher and left him a bloody mess.

In other bouts, Dino Bravo drew with John Studd . . . Pretty Boy Alan Tellers defeated Kenny Jay.

FORT WORTH, TX—Correspondent: Shawn Hodges—Kerry Von Erich continued his noble quest of ridding Texas of the "All-Asian Army." Von Erich faced Mr. Hito in a loser-leave-Texas match. Kerry seized control of the bout from the opening bell. Kerry tried the iron claw across the stomach, but Mr. Hito raked him across the eyes, breaking the hold. Von Erich used the sleeperhold and put Mr. Hito on the mat for the win.

In other bouts, David Von Erich beat Stan Stasiak . . . Don Diamond drew with Tim Brooks . . . Ox Baker beat Pak Song . . . Bulldog Brower halted Sweet Brown Sugar . . . Gino Hernandez defeated El Halcon. ☐

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Q & A

(Continued from Page 21)



The referee checks Race's level of consciousness as Steamboat applies a headlock (above). Rick challenges Ray Stevens to slug it out during an NWA tag team title match (below).



him into a million little pieces and I know he felt the same way about me. We laugh about it now, but, well, when we were feuding, man, it was rough.

Q: What do you think about rumors that Flair and Greg Valentine might team together?

A: I've heard them.

Q: Is there any truth to them?

A: Not that I know of. I'll say Flair turning bad would really hurt me, very deeply.

But I can't see him doing that. He's come too far, both in his career and in terms of fan trust, to toss everything overboard. Ric knows what it's like to be on the other side. I don't think he likes boos. Nope, I think Ric'll stay right where he is.

Q: On the other hand, you could never work with Ernie Ladd, could you?

A: Ladd? He's a big coward. I could never work with a

coward. Ladd may be big, but heart and mind and guts aren't proportional to size.

Q: Are you concentrating more on going after Harley Race's NWA title or regaining the NWA tag team title now held by Jimmy Snuka and Ray Stevens?

A: Well, the last match with Race was pretty disappointing. We ended up with a one-hour time limit but I thought I had the belt. Officials insist the bell went off just as I was about to deliver the three count, while I say I had Race pinned for the three count before the bell went off. But I'm not a crybaby, and I'll abide by the decision.

Q: So you look forward to wrestling Race again.

A: Oh, sure. Also Jay and I are going to get our belts back from Stevens and Snuka. They don't deserve to be champions, and we're going to make sure their title reign is a short and painful one.

Q: Are you considering teaming with Jones for a shot at the NWA tag team title?

A: I think we might give it a try. But Youngblood's my main partner now.

Q: What does the future hold for Rick Steamboat?

A: A major title, some happiness, some satisfaction, continuing to receive the love of my fans. I just want to be the best, that's all. □

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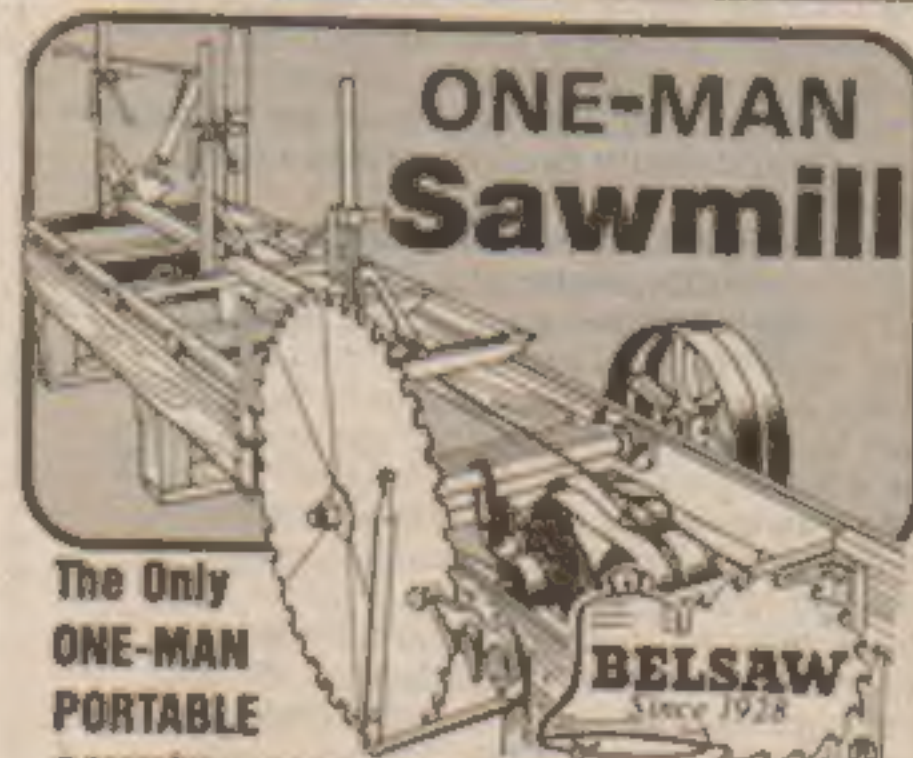
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